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LD1105133088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Syria is "obliged to agree to intervene" in the southern suburb to stop the bloody fighting taking place there, Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an announced in a statement reported by Beirut radio 11 May. He said Syria's intervention would be in light of the failure of attempts to calm the situation and in response to a request from "those concerned." Kan'an had warned the previous day that if efforts to end the fighting were unsuccessful, Syria would "respond to the cry by the citizens of the suburb for relief and rescue them from death and destruction," according to the radio. Speaking after a meeting with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the Syrian officer likened the situation in the southern suburb to that which prevailed in West Beirut before the entry of Syrian forces into the city.

Kan'an's announcement of Syria's intention to intervene followed another round of violent clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah early 11 May, reported by Beirut radio and other local stations. Voice of Lebanon radio spoke of fierce battles involving artillery, rockets, and machineguns, noting that Amal sources said their forces launched "defensive counterattacks" in response to an unexpected Hizballah "escalation." Hizballah sources maintained that their fighters repulsed the Amal attacks and captured Amal's center in Burj al-Barajinah, the radio added.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam announced his readiness to personally visit the conflict area to help put an end to the fighting, which has thus far left some 200 dead and 400 wounded, IRNA reported. As for the fate of foreign hostages in the southern suburb, the Voice of Lebanon cited reports that local residents have seen some hostages being taken to the home of a senior Hizballah official in the Bi'r al-'Abd area.

Amal has taken measures against Hizballah in the south, arresting some 250 Hizballah members in the Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah areas, according to Jerusalem radio. The radio also cited an IDF announcement that an Israeli unit killed a "terrorist" trying to infiltrate the security strip early 10 May.

Israel

Peres in Madrid—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held talks with two Soviet representatives on the sidelines of the Socialist International conference in Madrid, Jerusalem radio reported. In their discussion of the international conference issue, CPSU official Aleksandr Zotov reportedly expressed flexibility and told Peres that the Soviet Union is not speaking about a "binding conference." He added that the United States and Soviet Union have a "special" interest in the Middle East, and perhaps they should accordingly enjoy a special status at a conference, different from the status of other members of the UN Security Council. As for his talks in Budapest, Peres told IDF radio that he found "a lot of openness and an attentive ear," even though his interlocuters did ask "pointed" questions on the Palestinian issue.

Territories—An Arab youth was seriously wounded by IDF gunfire in the Tulkarm district 10 May, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The radio noted that West Bank residents continued to observe a general strike. In the Gaza Strip, security forces arrested a Fatah squad suspected of plotting to carry out a suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv central bus station, IDF radio reported. The members of the squad are local residents. In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that Mubarak 'Awwad ended his hunger strike after being moved into a jail with other detainees facing deportation.

In an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron estimated that 177 Arabs have been killed since the outset of the unrest, 144 of them by IDF gunfire, IDF radio noted. Shomron also criticized Jewish settlers for inflaming tension in the territories, Jerusalem radio reported, and he said that several settlers will face legal proceedings for failing to coordinate with the IDF over the 6 April hike in the Bayta area.

Cyprus Explosion—A car bomb which exploded over 100 meters from the Israeli Embassy in Cyprus 11 May could have been targeted against the embassy, the ambassador to Nicosia told IDF radio. The explosion killed two people, but no Israeli Embassy employees were hurt, the radio said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by the radio denounced the bombing as another attempt to carry out anti-Israeli attacks on Cypriot soil.

PLO and U.S. Document

A Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio commentary claimed that the "dangerous" U.S. document which the PLO received through an Arab state contains a "direct threat" from the U.S. Administration to the PLO and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat. The U.S. Administration has abandoned elementary rules of caution by announcing its intention of "personally targeting" 'Arafat and the PLO, the radio said. 'Arafat's Baghdad press conference in which he discussed the U.S. "threats" and "baseless claims" was also reported by the radio, which cited his claim that the U.S. document is a preparation for assassination operations against Palestinian leaders.

The Cairo paper AL-JUMHURIYAH condemned the U.S. "threat" to the PLO, asserting that it illustrates U.S. support for Israel's "organized terrorism," according to MENA. The paper added that this comes at a time when the PLO is adhering to the Cairo Declaration, in which it renounced terrorism.

Jordan

In remarks carried by PETRA-JNA, King Husayn revealed that he has proposed the formation of an Arab military force of some 30,000 soldiers organized into 3 divisions. The force, which would be instituted on the basis of the Arab League Charter and the Arab Defense Pact, should be trained and equipped to "confront any threat to any part of the Arab nation," King Husayn explained, adding that Jordan is willing to contribute up to 50 percent of the force. Arab circles have responded to the proposal with "welcome and concern," the king noted.

The Jordanian monarch expressed reservations over the timing of an Arab League summit scheduled for 7 June in Algiers, and he called for "further consultations and contacts" regarding the meeting's objectives. On the subject of Egypt's status in the Arab world, the king explained that even though Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is a "genuine Arab brother and friend," Egyptian participation is a "demand" but not a "condition" for Jordanian attendance at the upcoming summit.

In viewing the prospects for an international conference on the Middle East, the king asserted that the Soviet and Arab positions are "identical." He noted that he has been "dissatisfied" with the "convergence of views and attitudes between the extremist Israeli right and the American right." The king clarified his country's concept of a joint delegation as an "umbrella" under which separate Jordanian and Palestinian delegations would attend the conference, with each delegation addressing itself to "the responsibilities that fall on it." Husayn also disclosed that Egypt recently rejected a PLO proposal to form a joint delegation.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi jets raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 11 May, according to a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio.

For Iran's part, a communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian warplanes inflicted "substantial casualties and losses" on Iraqi positions along the southern front. In response to Iraqi accusations that Iranian artillery shelled Darband-i Khan, a WIH spokesman cited by the agency stressed that "Iran has not made any pre-emptive attacks on any Iraqi city except in reprisal and for holding Baghdad at bay." The official concluded that such "totally unfounded" Iraqi claims are part of a "propaganda campaign" against the Islamic Republic.

Afghanistan

The 9 May missile attack on the capital killed 23 people and wounded 28, Kabul radio reported, adding that the PDPA Politburo instructed the relevant authorities to "maintain reliable security" in the city and its environs.

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Reaction to U.S. 'Letter of Threats'

'Arafat Holds News Conference

JN101942 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1634 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, held a news conference at his place of residence in Baghdad today. At this news conference, he discussed the U.S. letter of threats to the PLO, which the PLO command received from an Arab country in the past 2 days.

Brother Abu 'Ammar [word indistinct] the letter is an official U.S. document which contains a direct U.S. threat to the PLO and to its chairman and prepares the atmosphere for a preplanned U.S. operation against the PLO and its leaders in view of the baseless claims it contains to the effect that the leader of the Palestinian revolution, Yasir 'Arafat, may have personnally approved a series of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and U.S. interests abroad, perhaps in retaliation for Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] assassination last month.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said this U.S. document is a coverup and a preparation for the assassination operations that will be made against several Palestinian leaders. This is is a very serious, insolent decision which the United States has made for the first time.

[Words indistinct] in reply to questions by the press, that it exposes the falsehood of U.S. talk that Washington desires to establish peace in the region and settle the Palestinian cause. The United States only wants a solution that is far from the Palestinian people's aspirations and that seeks to bypass their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO. This decision seeks to influence the course of the escalating popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. It also is in line with the Israeli decision to stalk the PLO leaders wherever they may be and to influence their uprising.

From this premise, one can say that these U.S. threats originally target the Palestinian uprising following Israel's failure to abort it, particularly since these threats are made while U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will undertake a new tour of the region.

He added [words indistinct] to expose the dimensions of these U.S. threats, the PLO Executive Committee chairman affirmed that the PLO has sent official memorandums to all Arab leaders, nonaligned leaders, Islamic countries' leaders, and the leaders of socialist countries to explain the dimensions of this serious U.S. stand against the PLO, the Palestinian people, and their leadership and uprising.

The PLO also sent an urgent memorandum in this regard to the United Nations. [Words indistinct] that the PLO will expose this hostile U.S. stand, and will devote its attention first to U.S. public opinion, then international public opinion on the course and lies of the United States [words indistinct] the Palestinian people's uprising in service of the terrorist Israeli policy.

Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the PLO has not and will never carry out terrorism [words indistinct] 1976 and in 1988. The PLO also helped to save others like them in other areas in the world.

A responsible PLO source has stated the following on the same subject:

The PLO leadership indirectly received a dangerous letter from the U.S. Administration through an Arab state. In this letter, the U.S. Administration refers to expected dangers aimed against U.S. civilians, interests, and establishments. What is dangerous in the official U.S. release is that it claims the expected dangers will result from terrorist attacks approved and backed by Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The warning holds the PLO responsible for any attacks that might affect U.S. civilians and its interests and accuses the PLO of planning retaliatory attacks after the martyrdom of leader Abu Jihad.

The PLO considers this official U.S. stand an extremely dangerous indication and new evidence of U.S. intentions for hostile acts against the PLO and its leadership. The PLO also considers this stand a continuation of the hostile U.S. political stand toward the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. This stand is accustomed to covering up its crimes and constant hostility toward our people by a false, tendentious claim describing the Palestinian people's struggle as terrorism and accusing their leadership of preparing for terrorist operations.

The facts which were affirmed by our people's uprising clearly, and with thousands of pieces of evidence, say that the terrorists are the Israeli rulers. They commit terrorist crimes and systematic, bloody oppression against the unarmed Palestinian people. The terrorists are those who support this systematic [words indistinct] and the aircraft from the U.S. factories which kill our children and women, our people in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon, and which are used against the Lebanese people.

The assassination of leader Abu Jihad reaffirms that Israeli terrorism is systematic state terrorism which is preplanned and predetermined. These facts embarrass the United States, the main ally and partner of the Israeli Government. Yet, at the same time the U.S. Administration is trying again to escape political embarrasament

by accusing the PLO and its leader of terrorism instead of stopping its support for these continuous, systematic Israeli crimes against our people.

The United States is doing all of this instead of correcting its stand toward our people, cause, and the legitimate and inalienable rights of our people by getting rid of the hateful occupation and confronting the occupiers' savage Nazi crimes against our children, women, and people.

The PLO is fully aware of the political and field objectives of the U.S. claims. It views such objectives as a U.S. inclination to indulge further in the continuing terrorist acts against our people and leaders. This prompts the PLO to strongly warn against the dangers arising from such U.S. intentions and their present hostility toward the Palestinian people and their leaders.

The PLO reminds the U.S. public of the PLO's role in securing the safety of many U.S. citizens more than once and in several locations despite the U.S. Administration's persistently hostile stand toward the Palestinian people, their leaders, and just cause. The PLO, from a position of responsibility and profound awareness of the new scheme, affirms its ability to confront such a scheme to expose and foil it, ensure the safety of the march and its leaders, and safeguard its honorable reputation of struggle which is divorced from terrorism and [words indistinct]. The U.S. Administration will not deceive anyone and will not be able [words indistinct].

'Arafat Informs Mubarak

NC1005112688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared that the PLO is not contemplating any terrorist acts, as alleged in the U.S. document which the PLO received 2 days ago.

At a news conference in Baghdad today, 'Arafat said he had informed President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of this document, which contains threats to the PLO and its leaders.

Asked by the MENA correspondent in Baghdad about the means of communication used, 'Arafat said: There is the telephone. Moreover, Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan is currently in Cairo.

'Arafat said he had referred the U.S. threat to President Mubarak in the latter's capacity as guarantor of the Cairo Agreement on refraining from terrorist operations.

PLO Official on 'Threat'

JN102000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (WAKH)—The PLO chairman's press adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, has said the Palestinian people are looking forward to a better and more vital European role in achieving a just solution to the Middle East problem.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad, Abu Sharif said that protecting the Palestinian people is an essential step and an indispensable prelude to starting the peace process in the region. After the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, an international force may secure protection for the Palestinian people for a short interim period during which the Palestinians can determine their own future under international supervision, he said.

He said the U.S. Administration, which has thus far committed itself to a hostile position toward the Palestinian people and their rights, is able to play a positive role in the region if it deals with the essence of the Middle East problem; namely, the Palestinian problem. This can be achieved through dealing directly with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and through recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self determination and the establishment of their independent state.

Abu Sharif said the tours of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will continue to fail unless the U.S. Administration changes its stands and begins to deal with the main party to the conflict with the Zionist entity; namely, the PLO. He added: The U.S. Administration would be making a mistake if it believes that the plans it proposes will shape the destiny of the region. This administration must understand that the peoples who struggle for the sake of achieving independence are ultimately bound to triumph.

Continuing his statement, Abu Sharif referred to the official U.S. threat which the PLO leadership received through an Arab state and said: This threat shows that the U.S. Administration is an involved party to plans being hatched to perpetrate terrorist operations against the PLO and its leaders and that it is afraid of any further revelations regarding its involvement in terrorist Israeli operations against the PLO and its leadership and also regarding its facilitating the implementation of these plans.

Abu Sharif added: The U.S. public is called upon, now more than ever, to interfere against the U.S. Administration's terrorist practices which tarnish the Americans' reputation as well as the way they are viewed by world peoples.

Concluding his statement, Abu Sharif said that the Zionist terrorist activities being perpetrated against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories is strong evidence of the real terrorism which employs the most horrendous types of collective racist suppression against the Palestinian citizens. The terrorism practiced against the PLO and its cadres outside the occupied homeland is an integral part of these terrorist activities.

'Dangerous Document' Viewed

JN101958 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1655 GMT 10 May 88

[Station commentary: "The United States Shoulders the Responsibility First and Last"]

[Text] Brothers, O sons of our great Palestinian people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The dangerous document received by the PLO through an Arab state and which contains a direct threat from the U.S. Administration to the PLO and its chairman, the leader of the Palestinian people's revolution, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], [words indistinct] a very serious meaning. It means that within the framework of its exposed war against our Palestinian people, its absolute hostility to the Palestinian people, and its absolute bias toward the Zionist enemy, the U.S. Administration has abandoned the simplest rules of caution and dared beyond the familiar limits to announce its premeditated intentions against our people, our organization, and our leadership.

Through this serious document, the U.S. Administration has in fact placed the belligerency of criminal force before any other consideration in its exposed war against the Palestinian people. It has also placed cheap intrigues, exposed lies, open fabrication, and odd behavior before other considerations in personally targeting the PLO and brother Abu 'Ammar.

What strongly attracts attention is that this serious document, which clearly condemns the United States, comes less than 1 month after the crime of assassinating the symbolic leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. This hideous crime was perpetrated by the Zionist enemy in accordance with a decision by the highest level of authority and with prior approval and knowledge of the U.S. Administration. We are not the only ones who direct this accusation toward the U.S. Administration. This accusation was proven by the facts and situation of the crime. It was also proven by the Zionist and U.S. media itself.

In light of other events, the United States cannot absolve itself of the responsibility of involvement and participation in this hideous crime, just as it was involved in the aggression against the PLO headquarters and the private residence of Brother Abu 'Ammar in Hammam al-Shatt in Tunis in 1985. It [the U.S. Administration] first denied this involvement and then admitted it in many ways after the Pollard spy incident and in the wake of National Security Adviser McFarlane's resignation.

Once again in its attempts to deny the accusation, the United States confirms the accusation in accordance with the psychological rule which says the suspicious almost said take me. The document, which is in our hands, further affirms that the U.S. Administration is practically preparing to commit new crimes. The madness of rancor and the blind belligerency of force might prompt the U.S. Administration toward open possibilities on the level of its crimes against our people, our leadership, the PLO, its offices, its leaders, and cadres everywhere.

What also strongly attacts attention is that the official U.S. announcement, through this document, of the intentions of crimes and aggression coincides with the U.S. Administration's preparations for a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz after his three previous tours failed and his conspiratorial proposals were destroyed on the rock of our blessed heroic uprising which has entered its 6th month with momentum, strength, and violence and which has entered its 155th day.

The Zionist enemy, the first U.S. ally, stands incompetent and failing after trying all known campaigns of repression, including the recent assassination of symbolic leader Abu Jihad. Therefore, the failure of the Zionist enemy and the continuation of the Palestinian uprising are behind the new tour on which Shultz is preparing to embark.

This premeditated, exposed U.S. intention of aggression is based on the joint U.S.-Zionist illusion that the PLO can be removed and put out of the way. As we affirm to the United States and the Zionist enemy that their illusions will not succeed, their black plans will not pass, and their fabricated allies will not be believed by anyone, we call on the world public, especially the U.S. public, to be a witness that the U.S. Administration shoulders the responsibility first and last. The method of escaping through blatant lies, committing new crimes against our people and leaders, and camouflage and accusing us of terrorism will not help the U.S. Administration evade its responsibility.

The entire world and the Americans in particular know that the PLO saved thousands of U.S. citizens in 1967 as well as in 1982 during the siege of Beriut. The entire world also knows that these crimes, which the U.S. Administration thinks of carrying out, cannot succeed in getting the PLO out of the way. The world, which has seen with its eyes the hideous Zionist crimes against our people and the intensive U.S. support for Zionist crimes, now knows who is struggling to obtain legitimate rights and who is practicing organized and arbitrary terrorism.

[Words indistinct] our decisive decision is to continue and escalate the uprising and comprehensive struggle to topple all political maneuvers or conspiratorial formulas aimed at encroaching upon our inalienable rights, including our right to repatriation, self-determination,

and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state under the PLO with holy Jerusalem as its capital. We will confront this U.S. logic—the logic of belligerency—and these Zionist policies based on crime and terrorism with all of our strength and methods of strugle. We only have one option; that is, struggle to achieve victory. Revolution until victory!

TANJUG Cites Paper on 'Arafat-Gorbachev Talks

LD0905182888 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1731 GMT 9 May 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, May 9 (TANJUG) — AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR (THE GREEN MARCH), the authoritative organ of the Libyan Revolutionary committees, today claims that during a recent meeting in Moscow, Soviet party leader Mikhail Gorbachev asked Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat that the PLO recognize Israel.

True, 'Arafat denied that such a pressure was exerted on him in Moscow, but Gorabchev—the weekly says—made it clear that the Kremlin's policy towards this question rests on the linking of pragmatical and principled views.

In this context the paper remarks that "Moscow's pragmatism has already led to massive migrations of Jews to Israel" and resulted in increasingly frequent contacts between Soviet and Israeli officials. All of this is seen as linked with reports about the alleged preparations for a meeting between the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers, Shi'mon Peres and Eduard Shevardnadze.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR concludes by saying that Libya would like to go on firmly believing that the Soviet Union is persistently "on the side of the just cause." However, it adds, "we cannot but put a large question mark behind all this."

Al-Quds on Unified Leadership Statement No 16

JN111039 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in English 1007 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The Unified National Command of the Uprising has issued Communique No 16. Here are the main topics of it:

—Calls on the people to prepare themselves for a new campaign of civil disobedience.

—Asks Gaza residents to boycott the new identity cards and resist attempts to replace the old ones.

—Calls on all Palestinian directors in the Civil Administration in Gaza to resign immediately and warns that the people will strike with an iron fist against those who did not comply.

—Celebrations for 'Id al-Fitr [end of fasting month of Ramadan] should be for religious observance only.

—May 13 is declared Day of Prayers for Palestinian [word indistinct]. After prayers, demonstrations are called against Zionist troops and settlers.

—First day of 'Id al-Fitr is day of national mourning in protest at [word indistinct] Islamic silence and impotence.

—May 15 is declared special day of anger during which people will confront all who have not quit their jobs in the Civil Administration, the police, or the Zionist-appointed municipal councils.

Algeria

Abdelghani Receives U.S. Envoy Whitehead

LD1005152888 Algiers APS in Arabic 1435 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Algiers, 10 May (APS)—Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state at the presidency, received today— Tuesday—at the headquarters of the presidency, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Whitehead, who arrived this morning in Algeria on an official visit during which he will hold talks with a number of Algerian officials.

In a post-arrival statement given at the airport VIP lounge, he said:

"We are very interested in developing cooperation with Algeria. Our talks will deal with various aspects of bilaterial relations and the major events of the world such as peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context Algeria's role in international affairs is worthy of respect. We will have a chance to review our relations in the gas industry field and I will have an opportunity to visit gas industry installations at Arzew."

Chad

Libyan Overflights Reported in North 9 May

AB1005180488 Paris AFP in French 1748 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 10 May (AFP)—Radio Chad announced today that the Libyan Air Force flew over Chadian national territory "throughout the day" yesterday in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET, northern Chad) Prefecture. The official Chadian radio, which has not announced any violations of Chadian airspace by the Libyan Air Force for quite some time, reported that a "cloud" of planes flew over the BET Prefecture yesterday.

The radio added that Libya had recently sent "booby traps," particularly packets of cigarettes and soap, to Chad. The radio, which did not state whether these items had injured people or caused damage, said that the objects could be found in several parts of Chad, particularly in the capital.

Radio Reports 10 May Flights

AB1005190588 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] We have just learned that the towns of Bardai, Omchi, and Ounianga were overflown this morning at 0700 [0800 GMT], 0900, and 0915.

Government Protests to OAU

AB1005185588 Paris AFP in French 1754 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Paris, 10 May (AFP)—Chad has lodged a complaint with the OAU following the violation of Chadian airspace by the Libyan Air Force yesterday, the Chadian Embassy in Paris announced today. Chad complained to Gabonese President Omar Bongo, chairman of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict, so that "member countries of the committee will assume their responsibilities in the face of Libya's flagrant violation of the cease-fire agreement signed between the two parties during the Lusaka meeting of 23 September 1987," adds the communique.

The ad hoc committee is made up of six countries; namely, Algeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Senegal. Leaders of member countries will meet in Addis Ababa on 24 May alongside the 24th general assembly of heads of state and government of the OAU.

According to the embassy, Libyan planes "continuously overflew all FANT positions in Ounianga, Bardai, Zouar, and Omchi, in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET, northern Chad) Prefecture on 9 May."

Commentary Denounces Libya

AB1005203488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] There has been an escalation in the war between the Republic of Chad and Libya. Two new elements have been added to the very long list of diabolical maneuvers by the Tripoli regime against our country. Faustin Darius has the details:

[Begin recording] First, on Monday, 9 May 1988, we witnessed a maneuver by fighter planes in the skies throughout the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET] Prefecture. Several planes of the Libyan squadron overflew, from 0900 to 1800 [0800-1700 GMT], FANT positions in the region. For 9 hours, a group of pilots of Al-Qadhdhafi's Air Force committed new acts of provocation, thus taking advantage of (?the lull) in the war against our country. This constitutes an obvious sign of the desire of the Libyan colonel to perpetuate useless violence between two countries, two peoples, and two nations bound by historical, longstanding, and privileged ties.

These intensive overflights confound the efforts of the OAU, which is expected to issue a decision on the crisis in 2 weeks at Addis Ababa, to put a final end to the Chad- Libya conflict. This latest attack by the Al-Qadhdhafi regime against Chad is linked to the recent mass refusal by Chadians living in Libya to join the ranks of the Islamic Legion, a refusal which, one may recall, led to (?45) deaths.

The second aspect of Al-Qadhdhafi's strategy against the Republic of Chad is the following: We have recently observed the large-scale importation of booby traps into our country. These are mainly in the form of packets of cigarettes, bars of soap, [word indistinct], and cans of milk. These products are already circulating in our country, particularly in the capital. After practicing terrorism with arms, Al-Qadhdhafi seems to be revising his terrorist tactics by using boobytrapped food.

Several of our fellow countrymen in the BET have already been victims of this form of terrorism. The Libyan colonel, who is [words indistinct] hatred, the spirit of [words indistinct] is determined to massacre the entire Chadian nation, and to achieve this he uses all possible means. The man of the Bab al-Aziziya Barracks in Tripoli, whose deeds have been exposed, will never succeed in cracking the heroic and nationalistic shell of the Chadian people.

However, the introduction of booby traps and poisoned food to Chad should increase the vigilance of all Chadians. They should be vigilant in view of Al-Qadhdhafi's treachery. They should avoid packets of cigarettes thrown on the ground and items that are sold clandestinely. Chadian traders are called upon to discipline their [word indistinct]. They should not grab goods that are sold at very low prices and they should beware of enticing offers. The safety of the people depends on this.

Intensive overflights of the BET Prefecture and the introduction of booby traps and poisoned goods into Chad are all acts which demonstrate the exceptional inhumanity of Al-Qadhdhafi and reveal his desire to exterminate and annex the Chadian people. The international community and the OAU are hereby informed of this new form of Libyan aggression against the Republic of Chad. [end recording]

Habre Appeals for Aid Against Locusts

AB1005210988 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] Migratory locusts are currently invading the whole of West Africa and in the rest of the Sahelian region the invasion is just around the corner. This alarming situation has led El Hadj Hissein Habre, chairman of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, to launch an appeal to all [words indistinct] of all Sahelians, and all friends of the Sahel. Lutwa Francis reports.

[Begin recording] In his appeal, El Hadj Hissein Habre reasserted that this locust invasion is not surprising since the surveillance equipment established by the Sahelian countries had revealed the threat of a locust invasion at the beginning of the planting season in our country and in Niger, Mali, and Mauritania. However, the intensity of the invasion was unexpected, hence this emergency reaction to control the scourge. [passage omitted] [end recording]

72 Refugee Families Return From Cameroon

AB0705113088 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Seventy-two Chadian families who had sought refuge at Poli Camp in Cameroon returned to Ndjamena late this morning. They were led back to Ndjamena by Shanafou Baba, the deputy secretary general of UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Regional Committee. In all, 180 Chadians—women, men, and children heeded the Chadian Government's call for national development programs despite a biased campaign designed to tarnish our country's image.

Prompted by a sense of patriotism and the determination to help rebuild their country, these compatriots decided freely to return home. Among them are cadres of the Army, administration, the canton chiefs of Djene and Salamata in the Mayo-Kebbi Prefecture; the canton chiefs of Bourou and Dangoro in the Logone Oriental; the canton chiefs of Tchatchoul and [name indistinct] in the Logone Occidental Prefecture; as well as notables including [name indistinct] whose father was received over a month ago by the president of the Republic. [passage indistinct]

Egypt

Paper Cited on U.S. 'Threat' to PLO

NC1005222588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the recent U.S. threat to the PLO disclosed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a news conference in Baghdad today, demonstrates that the United States supports the organized terrorism that Israel practices daily inside and outside its territory.

In an editorial to appear in Wednesday's edition, the newspaper says that this threat reveals the U.S. Administration's true face in dealing with the Palestinan people and their just cause.

The paper adds that this U.S. threat to the PLO comes at a time when the PLO is adhering to the Cairo Declaration, in which it pledged to abandon all forms of terrorism. It also comes despite the positive positions adopted by 'Arafat and the PLO to guarantee the safety of U.S. nationals, even to the point of rescuing them on more than one occasion while fighting in Beirut between 1976 and 1982.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH urges world public opinion, and U.S. public opinion in particular, to whom the true nature of Israeli practices and occupation of our Arab land is clear, to abort this scheme which does not serve peace. The paper remarks that the PLO is a reality in the region and that its influence and expression of the hopes of the Palestinian people cannot be disregarded.

The paper comments that this reality cannot be affected by the elimination of one of the PLO's leaders or by threatening it, no matter what level the threat or its originator.

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat's Political Adviser

NC1005191688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Hani al-Hasan, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Sa'id Kamal, the PLO representative in Cairo.

PLO Adviser Departs

NC1105082388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 May (MENA)—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit. [passage omitted]

Memorandum of Understanding With U.S. Cited

PM0905101788 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Full 'Text' of Most Serious Agreement Since Camp David"]

[Excerpts] AL-SHA'B has obtained full details of the secret agreement called Egyptian-U.S. memorandum of understanding, the draft of which was signed with the United States. The memorandum we are publishing created widespread disputes within the Council of Ministers. The discussions resulted in specific reservations and Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah was asked to submit them to the Americans during his next round of talks.

It is well-known that the stipulations we are publishing represent the political framework of the military clauses which the state has published in the official papers. These secret political terms constitute the most serious part of the agreement.

The terms contained in the Egyptian-U.S. memorandum of understanding are as follows:

1 — Egypt is committed to U.S. and NATO military plans against threats to countries of the region.

2 — Egypt will provide military facilities at airports and seaports and on Egyptian territory if military operations are required to implement such plans.

3 — Egypt will, as the course of military operations dictates, safeguard U.S. and NATO forces both in the air and at sea.

4 — In the event of special military operations in the countries of the region, military consultations will be held between Egypt and the United States to agree on the nature of the threats directed at the security of the region's countries.

5 — In the event of Egyptian-U.S. disagreement over the nature of the threat to the security of these countries, Egypt will provide specific military facilities to be determined after Egyptian-U.S. military consultations.

6 — In return, the United States will supply Egypt with the arms it needs and the military equipment required for modernizing its Armed Forces.

7 —The United States will supply Egypt with the latest technologically advanced weapons, as well as the U.S. expertise required for Egyptian war production, provided Egypt guarantees the following:

— Such weapons must not be exported to a third party before U.S. approval is given.

— Egypt must understand that the U.S. agreement to supply it with the latest technological weapons falls within the strategic balance between it and the states of the region.

This section deals with the nature of Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation. But, there is another section that deals with the dimensions of Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation in the field of military industrialization, which contains the following:

1 — Joint cooperation between the two countries in the fields of military electronic equipment and modern pilotless aircraft.

2 — Egyptian military experts will work in the field of U.S. military research concerning the production of modern weapons.

3 — Egyptian military missions to the United States will increase.

4 — Egypt will benefit from U.S. military expertise in the production of modern U.S. weapons.

5 — Periodic joint military research will be conducted to explore the latest developments in the production of arms and military equipment.

These are the most important points contained in the memorandum of understanding in addition to the introductory part, which explains the nature of military cooperation and focuses on the areas of joint cooperation in military production. The memorandum of understanding is of 5 years duration and is renewable.

However, along with the terms stated in the memorandum of understanding it was agreed that as long as Egypt is concerned, albeit indirectly, about the preservation of the security of countries in the region and the requirements of pan-Arab security, the Egyptian leadership should work toward persuading the region's countries to agree to a U.S. and NATO military presence should the security of the region be threatened. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers has endorsed the memorandum of understanding, urging that the following points be determined during the next talks with U.S. and NATO military officials:

1 — The scale of military facilities which Washington will seek from Egypt.

2 — Such military facilities must not directly or indirectly affect Egypt's sovereignty over its territory, airports, and seaports.

3 — Such facilities must be confined to a specific period that is required for military operations once there is an agreement on the nature of the danger to both Egypt and the United States.

4 — Egyptian warning planes or modern electronic aircraft must operate within Egyptian airspace only.

5 — The criterion, on which strategic imbalance within the military balance among the states of the region will be determined, must be specified.

When these five points are settled the Council of Ministers will endorse its final approval of the Egyptian-U.S. memorandum of understanding.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has sent an official request to the Egyptian Government asking for an explanation of the Egyptian-U.S. memorandum of understanding. The request was delivered to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by the Soviet ambassador to Cairo. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry replied to the Soviet request and said in its explanation that the memorandum of understanding falls within the natural and familiar framework of Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation and that Egypt maintains a balance in its relations with the two superpowers.

It was also explained that Egyptian-U.S. cooperation is aimed primarily against foreign dangers threatening the security and stability of the states in the region. In its explanation Egypt added that the memorandum of understanding cannot constitute a strategic alliance between Egypt and the United States, since Egypt is convinced of the need to maintain a balance in its relations with international powers.

The explanation also indicated that the memorandum of understanding is basically aimed at deepening joint cooperation between Egypt and the United States in the field of military production. [passage omitted]

Pact With U.S. Said To Compromise Security

PM1005104588 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
3 May 88 p 5

[Article by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad: "The Threat Posed by the U.S.-Egyptian Memorandum of Understanding to Our National Security"]

[Excerpts] During his recent visit to Washington, Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister, defense and war production minister, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, signed with U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci a document called "a U.S.-Egyptian memorandum of understanding," to avoid using the word "agreement" or "treaty" and therefore avoid having to submit it to constitutional and control entities. [passage omitted]

Without going into details, dimensions, and consequences, we say that, in general, the danger of this memorandum lies in the fact that it gives the [U.S.] Government vast powers to determine the state of our national defense and, in connection with our military secrets, as follows:

1. The agreement is closely linked to Egypt's national security in that it provides for "effective" cooperation in matters of defense, arms purchases, development of research related to military equipment, cost improvement, and rationalization of the use of financial appropriations for defense. That gives the U.S. Government access to all of Egypt's defense secrets regarding troops, organization, training, supply, armament, and equipment, and also regarding how the Defense Ministry's appropriations, loans, and aid are spent.

This is something to which the People's Assembly and its Mobilization and National Security Committees do not have access because they are not allowed to see the details or debate such expenditures in the state budget.

2. It gives the U.S. Government access to all information and data pertaining to national defense and it provides for cooperation in fields of research, development, procurement, and administrative work related to arms and military equipment. Both governments are committed to issuing the necessary policy and administrative instructions to the departments in charge of military purchases notifying them of this memorandum and the rules laid down for its implementation with a view to promoting "better" cooperation in the field of defense.

3. It provides for U.S. Government participation in matters of armament to—according to the memorandum of understanding—achieve a better understanding of defense requirements and technical solutions as a

result of technical exchanges and participation in operations. A U.S.-Egyptian joint military committee is to be formed to regularly review matters related to implementation of the memorandum of understanding. The question here is the extent to which the provisions of this memorandum, and what is likely to be included in its future appendices, will affect the principle of "diversification of arms sources," about which we have been proudly boasting as a national achievement reflecting our freedom of armament.

These vast and serious privileges given to the U.S. Government in the domain of our own national defense should be examined closely and obectively because of the U.S. link with Israel. It is feared that this link might lead to the use of the privileges which the U.S. Government enjoys under the memorandum of understanding to serve Israel to the detriment of our national security.

We should not overlook the fact that the equipment and arms we get are meant to defend ourselves and our homeland against the threats made by Israeli leaders from time to time to storm Sinai and return to the east bank of the Suez Canal, and against the dream, to which the Israelis still cling, of a greater Israel extending from the Nile to the Euphrates.

So, Israel is the only real threat to our nation and it has a strategic alliance with the United States, which always takes Israel's side, which did not hesitate to go to its aid against the Egyptian Armed Forces in the 1973 war, and which spares no effort to support Israel all the way militarily, economically, financially, and diplomatically, even when it violates international charters and traditions, undermines the sovereignty of UN member states (such as Lebanon, Iraq, and Tunisia), and commits state terrorist crimes and abominable, barbaric, inhumane acts resented by the civilized world.

All that makes us wonder: How can we ensure the safety of our land and people if we place all the information and data on our Armed Forces and defense strategy at the disposal of the U.S. Government, and make the United States the source of our arms and equipment? [passage omitted]

This review of the most important provisions of the memorandum shows that although it may not be seen as a military alliance, it certainly is a treaty regulating the arms trade between the two signatories and breaches the sovereign right of defending the country and its national security. Therefore, mere notification of the People's Assembly in accordance with the first part of Article 151 of the Constitution is not enough. It should be approved by the People's Assembly if it is to be enforced in accordance with the second part of the same article, regardless of the American practice based on the U.S. Constitution and laws. [passage omitted]

TV Commentator Assails Israeli 'Arrogance'

NC1005093088 Cairo Television Service in English 1840 GMT 9 May 88

["Spotlight on the News" commentary by Salim Rizqallah]

[Text] Irrespective of the fate of Security Council resolutions, which are sometimes defeated, not because of the lack of unanimity or conviction among the council members, but because of the veto which technically may have the power to stop the adoption of a decision endorsed and upheld by all other 14 members. Irrespective of the fate of Security Council resolutions, many a time governed by considerations totally irrelevant to the issue tabled for discussion, Israel remains the one country in the world whose flagrant violations of both the UN Charter and human rights dominate the Security Council debates the year round.

What is more, not only does Israel top the list of UN member states found guilty of such breaches, but never has the Council failed to show outright unanimity in its condemnation of Israel's line of conduct and pattern of violence. When we say never has the council failed to show outright unanimity in its condemnation of Israel's line of conduct and pattern of violence, our assessment is prompted by the fact that vetoing a resolution endorsed and upheld by all other 14 members does not stop the world from considering the resolution as good as passed, even though, technically, the veto may have tried to muffle it.

It is true that the technical defeat of such resolutions stops the application of whatever sanctions they may carry. But objectively speaking, even if those resolutions were adopted technically, nobody ever expects Israel to respond or show respect for world views and decisions one way or the other. There are piles of UN resolutions denouncing Israel's flouting of the provisions of international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet, not only does Israel look down with arrogance and contempt on all world decisions, but she pursues her ravaging campaigns with added defiance and ferocity.

Lebanon's complaint to the Security Council this week against the new wave of death and terror unleashed by Israel in the South tells the whole story. It stands as a glaring example of the tragic misery the Israelis have plunged this area into. To put matters in their proper perspective, the Lebanese ambassador to the United Nations, knowing beforehand what the Israeli Government would come up with, declared clearly and unequivocally: The Israeli operation is not an incursion, but an invasion of south Lebanon. When a military venture involves paratroops, the Air Force, armored columns, and the infantry, it is an outright invasion.

And indeed it was, with the invading forces wiping out entire villages, pounding and destroying more than 50 houses, blowing up many more with dynamite, killing scores of people, subjecting hundreds more to physical torture and kidnapping—we're not saying capturing since the word most certainly does not apply here—kidnapping a large number of Lebanese youngsters and driving them into Israel for an overdose of the improved methods of torture.

Never has Israel embarked on some tragic adventure anywhere, anytime, without making a point almost immediately of filling a shocked and horrified world with claims that the Israeli Government is seriously split over the issue. It is part of an Israeli strategy and tactics aimed at dampening the world's fury by pretending that the Israeli Cabinet does include a number of elements who are diametrically opposed to the pattern of violence applied by the so-called hawks of Israel. The idea, of course, is to keep the international community plunged in wishful thinking that, one day, those doves or moderates would have the upper hand and steer matters towards peace, based on justice.

In the case of the recent invasion of south Lebanon, news based on a deliberate leakage from Israel that the Shamir government was split over the whole idea, with some viewing the operation as a high risk that could lead to a confrontation with the Syrian forces, is an outright insult to human intelligence. Indeed, what makes it all the more so is that this time Israel has gone so far as to claim that the invasion was planned and ordered by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin alone, without consulting the ministerial cabinet, and that Prime Minister Shamir and his deputy Shim'on Peres were not informed before the operation was well underway.

Now, is this at all conceivable within the Israeli Government structure, where everything is so systematic that not one move is made without at least the so-called mini-cabinet, better known as the war cabinet, giving the green light? Is it at all conceivable that the Israeli defense minister would take such an initiative on his own with all the risks, expenses, and repercussions involved, not to mention the inevitable Israeli casualties in such a major military offensive, without knowing that he will be answerable?

If the assassination of one Palestinian leader, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], called for the approval of the Israeli Government so that Shamir, proud of the blessings he had given to the criminal plot, wired his congratulations to the murder squad in mid-sea shortly after the crime was committed, can the outright invasion of south Lebanon, with all the political implications involved and the international row it is bound to cause, become a one-man secret?

Then again, those said to have opposed the invasion upon knowing of it later are so notorious for their violence and brutality that it would be hilarious to label them as the doves of Israel. Ari'el Sharon, for one, is known to be one of the main architects of the grim repressive measures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The protagonists in that tragic Israeli game or play are the same. Only the parts change, depending on the maestro, or the director of the play. Let us not go back to that old and naive story of hawks and doves again.

After all, has the world forgotten that the totally unjustified bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, which brought shock and horror to the world, was carried out when Shim'on Peres was prime minister of Israel? Rather than show embarrassment for such an act of outright state terrorism, the Israeli Government took pride at the time in giving details of the sophisticated technology and training of the men behind the treacherous operation.

The same with Yitzhaq Shamir, the prime minister of Israel today, who speaks with pride of Israel's murder of Abu Jihad, with the Israeli Government calling it a daring operation that tells of technological power and rare ability. It is Peres yesterday and Shamir today; it is Sharon yesterday and Rabin today; it is all the Israeli protagonists yesterday and today, with the same objectives, the same targets, the same strategy, the same tactics, but probably a different approach that entails a reallocation of parts to keep the world hoping and hoping, while the tragedy goes on and the plight of those moaning under the heat of occupation becomes all the heavier.

The murder of Abu Jihad, the invasion of South Lebanon and the present clashes between the two factions of the pro-Iranian Hizballah and the pro-Syrian Amal militias in Lebanon are all intended to draw attention away from the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, which now enters its 6th month without any sign of abating. Hizballah has a grim political role in Lebanon which, many a time in the past, Tehran has harnessed for Israeli interests. It is part of Tehran's bargain for the arms deal with Israel. We have seen those pro-Iranian maniacs assume an active role in the campaign of Palestinian genocide when asked to do so.

We have seen them, upon Iranian orders, coordinate matters with both the Israelis and the so-called pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army. Never have we seen them antagonize the Israelis, or hamper their plans. Proof that the Hizballah militia is an Iranian political tool is furnished by the fact that when the clashes with the pro-Syrian Amal factions developed into grim dimensions and Damascus wanted a truce that would put a stop to the bloodshed, the agreement this week was negotiated between a Syrian official and the Iranian minister of foreign affairs. A Lebanese faction, based in Lebanon, is bound by no other than an agreement concluded by Khomeyni's foreign minister. Need we say more?

It is high time the world saw matters in their proper perspective, without pessimism or optimism, but on purely realistic grounds. Let the world no longer be taken in by those fake rifts within the Israeli Government and entertain false hopes. The truth is that Israel wants to give nothing back, that justice for all Israeli Cabinet ministers, whatever their claim, is a self-styled concept based on the usurpation of the rights of others and the crushing of those who dare stand in the way of Zionist dreams and ambitions.

Libya

Whitehead Statement Reflects U.S. 'Arrogance'

LD1005205688 Tripoli JANA in English 1840 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Washington, Al-Ma' [May] 10, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — The U.S. deputy secretary of state "John Whitehead" announced while on his way to visit Algeria that he will ask the Algerians to co-operate with the U.S. Administration to arrest the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner.

On this statement, JANA's Arab affairs editor wrote:

"What has Whitehead said reflects the arrogance with which the U.S. Administration deals with independent sovereign states."

Adding: "There is no justification for such statements except the guardianship madness, the interference in the affairs of others and an attempt to poke its colonial nose in things that do not concern it from near or far. Algeria had confirmed previously that dealing with the hijacked plane was done in accordance to what Arab responsibility it bears considering that the whole matter was an Arab issue."

Delegation Addresses Human Rights Seminar

LD0905190288 Tripoli JANA in English 1443 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Brussels, Al-Ma' [May] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A delegation from Great Jamahiriyah took part in the sessions of the international seminar on human rights and international co-operation, called for by the International League of Democratic Lawyers, being held in Brussels from 7 to 8 current Al-Ma' month and in which more than 91 lawyers from 35 countries and 15 international organisations have taken part.

During the seminar, the Libyan Arab delegation had projected the accomplishments of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in the field of confirming human freedom and rights and peoples' freedom for peace.

The delegation assured the participants that the Great Al-Fatih Revolution had been established for man's liberty and happiness—and that was embodied in the first declaration of the revolution in 1969 and was consolidated by the declaration of the establishing of people's authority in 1977 when power, wealth and arms were in the hands of the people.

It added that the crowning of the freedom declaration came by the initiative of the leader in Mirrikh (March) month of 1988 amid the feasts of people's authority by demolishing prisons, setting prisoners free, the tearing up of lists of those banned from travel and the destruction of the artificial boundaries separating the sons of the one Arab people.

Jamahiriyah became the country of freedom, the freedom-fighters sanction and its people is living on a land that has [word indistinct] no martial law courts, no emergency laws and freedom of (?opinion), belief, travel and (?where) work is guaranteed for all [words indistinct] basic securities for man's life—the house for its inhabitants, land is no one's property, living and transport means are basic needs for the individual and for the family.

In its address, the delegation explained that the convening of the basic people's congresses in emergency session translates this everyday fact in an international document of human rights presented to nations.

Congresses To Meet on Human Rights Document

LD1005151988 Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' [May] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — In confirmation of people's authority and in consolidation of direct people's democracy, the nationalist and internationalist people's congresses are holding an emergency session in all Great Jamahiriyah's municipalities this evening, Tuesday the 24th of Ramadan 1397 from death of the messenger coinciding with 10 Al-Ma' 1988 to discuss the human rights' document in jamahiri society.

Mauritania

Head of State Receives Algerian Envoy 9 May

AB1005085788 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, received Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian Party Central Committee and special envoy from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

The audience took place in the presence of Col Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, the CMSN permanent secretary; Commanding Officer Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, member of the CMSN and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and members of the Algerian delegation.

After the audience, Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia told the national press that he was honored to have been received by the chairman of the CMSN and head of state to whom he delivered a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The message, he added, dealt with the Arab summit to be held from [words indistinct] in Algiers.

The Algerian special envoy said further that he had also discussed with the head of state other issues, such as bilateral cooperation and the situation in the Arab world.

Minister To Head Government While President Away

LD1005225788 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Lieutenant Colonel Djibril Ould Abdallahi, CMSN member and minister of interior, post, and telecommunications, will take responsibility for managing state affairs during the head of state's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Briefs

Chinese Red Cross Donation

Yesterday, the president of the Red Crescent in Mauritania presented to the Ministry of Rural Development 1.5 tonnes of pesticides as a gift from the Chinese International Red Cross. This donation will help in our country's fight against the locust invasion. [Summary] [*AB0805145488 Nouakchott Domestic Service in FRENCH 030 GMT 8 MAY 88*]

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives Algerian Officials

LD1005214788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] This evening, His Majesty King Hassan II received at the Royal Court Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the Algerian FLN Permanent Secretariat, and General Larbi Belkheir, director of the Algerian president's office.

The audience was attended by Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, and his majesty's adviser, Ahmed Reda Guedira.

The Algerian officials arrived in Morocco this afternoon. They were welcomed at Sale Airport, Rabat, by Driss Basri, Ahmed Reda Guedira, and Omar [name indistinct], governor of Rabat and Sale.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Says Rebels Blocking Relief Aid

EA1005225888 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has stressed that the government's policy on the south is to strive persistently and seriously to solve the problem peacefully.

At the same time he stressed that the rebel movement's aggressive acts have obstructed supply routes and prevented the delivery of supplies to people affected by operations in the south.

The prime minister warned of the increasing exacerbation of the crisis if the Garang movement persists in refusing to negotiate and said this could lead to the total destruction of the south.

He also pointed out that thousands of citizens have recently migrated to Kordofan and the north as a result of the intensified attacks. His excellency said that cutting off roads aggravates famine and that those areas are in urgent need of international relief and rehabilitation aid.

Meanwhile, a French doctor has revealed that more than 80 percent of the homeless children in Kordofan suffer from malnutrition. He said doctors working with relief agencies have expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of adequate allocations of (?aid) to the Darfur area to deal with the crisis.

AL-BA'TH Interviews Party Leader Al-Sayyid

PM1105075988 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 29 Apr 88 p 3

[Report on interview with Dr Nasir al-Sayyid, secretary general of the Sudanese Islamic Socialist Party, by 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kafri in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr Nasir al-Sayyid, secretary general of the Sudanese Islamic Socialist Party, emphasized:

We appreciate, admire, respect, and fully support the pan-Arab approach maintained by Syria under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad, for it reflects the principled pan-Arab vision of a party that is raising the banner of Arab unity and is struggling for it. Such an approach reflects the will of the brave Syrian people, who have made, and still make, many sacrifices for the Arab nation's causes, the foremost of which is main issue for Arabs, the Palestinian cause.

Dr al-Sayyid, who is visiting Damascus, said this during an interview conducted by AL-BA'TH. He added:

Our party, the Islamic Socialist Party, is one of the political parties established at the beginning of party life in Sudan. It was established in March 1949. It believes in the unity of the Arab nation, socialism, and the Islamic faith. Its slogans are: nationalism, pan-Arabism, socialism, and Islam. It is against imperialism, Zionism, and capitalism. It supports Arab, African, and world liberation movements. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Sayyid said: True, our party is classified as a brand new force. It began its activities among students at Sudanese universities and secondary schools and then moved on to work within the Sudanese union movement. [passage omitted]

Answering another question, Dr al-Sayyid said:

We view the attempt by the Ummah Party and the [Democratic] Unionist Party to monopolize power as erroneous and harmful to the democratic process in Sudan. If this attempt succeeds, it would lead to severe polarization, dividing the nationalist movement into a right-wing government and a left-wing opposition, at a time when we urgently need national unity in Sudan. Unity is especially necessary now as we are suffering a war in the south launched by foreign and internal powers to exhaust Sudan's resources, falsify its Arab identity, and erase its Arab and Islamic culture, thus preventing Sudan from playing its role against imperialism and Zionism. [passage omitted]

As for our party's positior on the program of the National Progressive Front in Sudan, the program has not clearly and openly defined the Arab and Islamic identity of Sudan.

And this is sufficient to prevent us from joining the front, though we maintain staunch ties with the parties of the front and work together in other spheres. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Sayyid added:

Our talks with Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, were an extension of the talks we held in the past, most recently the meeting last January in Tripoli on the sidelines of the Arab ruling parties' conference.

During the talks we reemphasized the depth of ideological, struggle, and historical ties between our parties and peoples. Our stands were identical on various issues, especially our opposition to Zionism, imperialism, and capitulationist and liquidationist settlement plans in the region. [passage omitted]

Government Troops Reportedly Kill 20 Civilians

LD1005225488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Reports from southern Blue Nile [Province] say the Khartoum government soldiers have gone on the rampage in Goja and Kashangaro villages killing civilians as well as burning their homes.

According to our correspondent in the area, well over 20 civilians were killed in Goja and 7 in Kashangaro village. There are also reports of indiscriminate killings and burning down of civilian settlements in other villages in southern Blue Nile.

Correspondent says that this action of the Khartoum Government soldiers came after their clashes in Qaysan, (Hillat al-Sharif), and Kashangaro recently which led to the death of 87 Khartoum government soldiers.

Tunisia

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Invitation

LD1005134688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the president of the Republic, received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi which was conveyed to his excellency this morning by Mr Abd al-'Atti al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan Jamahiriyah's permanent delegate to the Arab League.

The Libyan diplomat stated that the message deals with the current Arab situation and bilateral relations. He added that he renewed the invitation that had already been extended by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to his excellency the president to visit the Jamahiriyah, pointing out that his invitation received a positive response and full understanding from his excellency the president.

Bahrain

UN Envoy Condemns Israeli 'Invasion' of Lebanon

JN100721 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0542 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] New York, 10 May (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has reaffirmed its condemnation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its denunciation of this criminal aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty, territory, and citizens. Bahrain said that this constitutes a flagrant violation of all international norms and charters.

The State of Bahrain calls on the UN Security Council to regain its lost credibility in Lebanon and the Middle East through adopting a brave and sincere stand condemning Israel's terrorist, expansionist, and repressive policy. It also calls on the UN Security Council to adopt the appropriate stand in order to see Lebanon regain its security and stability. And it also calls on the UN Security Council to adopt a deterrent and firm stand against Israel so as not to find in the council's stand an award or encouragement for its invasion of Lebanon.

This came in a speech delivered by Karim al-Shukr, Bahrain's permanent UN representative, before the UN Security Council last night concerning Lebanon's complaint about the Israeli incursion into South Lebanon and the western Al-Biqa'.

The Bahraini representative said that the international responsibility shouldered by the UN Security Council toward maintaining the safety and inviolability of Lebanese territory is a large responsibility. He said the council and its members must assume this responsibility by adopting deterrent measures to prevent Israel from undertaking another adventure if the Council is truly serious about deterring the Israeli aggression against and invasion of Lebanon and to prevent the continuation, repetition, and development of this practice in the future.

He said that backed by tanks, armored cars, and artillery, the Israeli forces sowed damage and destruction in the Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah villages and their vicinity. He said that at least 40 lives were claimed by this terrorist Zionist act. He affirmed that the Israeli incursion into Lebanon constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law and demonstrates disregard for all values and principles called for by the United Nations.

He indicated that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon demonstrates the extent of the rancor harbored by the Israeli leaders against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

He explained that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is an act that cannot be separated or dissociated from the Palestinian people's confrontation of the ferocious Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian lands. This invasion coincides with the escalation of the valiant uprising in the occupied territories. The continuation of the uprising, which began last December, has become a danger for Israel. The concerns of Israel's leaders are aroused and its ambitions of occupying and usurping more Arab lands are threatened.

In his speech, the Bahraini representative explained that Israel's fabricated uproar saying that the issue of security justifies its incursion into Lebanon is a feeble, unacceptable pretext. Israel has always fabricated the same uproar in its similar and repeated attacks on Lebanon, Tunisia, and the Iraqi nuclear reactor that was used for peaceful purposes.

He said that the invasion of Lebanon did not come in a vacuum. Israel has found in its incursion into Lebanon a means to distract the world's attention from the value and results of the Palestinian people's heroic uprising in the occupied land. He said that Israel also wanted the incursion as a means to distract the world's attention from the facts produced by the uprising of stones in terms of defending national rights and resisting the occupation, injustice, aggression, and continued Zionist practices against the Palestinian people for more than 20 years.

He added that Israel is mistaken to believe and imagine that its invasion of Lebanon will halt the Palestinian people's uprising and abort the brave uprising. The uprising continues to escalate despite the terrorist Israeli practices and crimes represented by killings, assassinations, deportations, breaking of arms, and demolishing of houses. These are daily Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian lands and Lebanon. These criminal policies will only increase the Palestinian people's determination to follow the path they have chosen to continue their legitimate struggle until their inalienable rights are attained.

The Bahraini representative said that the repeated Israeli attacks against Lebanon are not new. They have been frequently discussed by the UN Security Council and many resolutions to this effect have been adopted. However, Israel did not respect these resolutions and showed complete disregard for them. Israel did so imagining that security and safety in Lebanon could force Lebanon to surrender to Zionist extortion. He affirmed that this Zionist plan will never be achieved under any conditions.

Regardless of its aggressive policies, Israel will not be able to decide Lebanon's future as it does its present. Those expansionist, terrorist policies will not be able to shake Lebanon's belief in its Arabism and pan-Arab commitment, he affirmed.

He emphasized that peace and security within the southern Lebanese border area cannot be achieved through invasion, aggression, or the occupation of Lebanese territory by Israel. Peace can be achieved through respecting and implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions providing for complete, immediate,

and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territory; respecting Lebanon's sovereignty and the inviolability of its territory, airspace, and territorial waters; an immediate halt to any attacks and practices on Lebanese territory; and enabling the UNIFIL force in Lebanon to implement its assigned mission.

Kuwait

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Opens Talks

LD1005130188 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1137 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Kuwait 10 May (KUNA)—Official talks between Kuwait and the Soviet Union began at the Foreign Ministry this morning under the leadership of Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and Mikhail Sytenko, chief of the Near East and North African Countries Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The talks were attended on the Kuwaiti side by Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwi', director of European affairs at the Foreign Ministry; and 'Abd al-Latif al-Muwwash, who is also an official at the same department; and on the Soviet side by Ernest Zverev, Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait, and a member of Mr Sytenko's accompanying delegation.

An authoritative source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and concentrated on the situation in Afghanistan. The Soviet envoy explained the latest developments in that country following the signing by a number of parties of the Geneva agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The source added that the Soviet official repeated his country's full commitment to such an agreement and the fact that the Soviet Union is serious about implementing it, particularly withdrawing the Soviet forces from Afghan territory and allowing the Afghan people to exercise their right to self-determination and a political system of their choice. The source stated that the Soviet envoy gave Mr al-Shahin a copy of the agreement.

The source continued: Kuwait has welcomed and supported such an agreement and has expressed the hope that such a positive step will bring stability and peace to the Afghan Muslim people. The source was optimistic that the implementation of such an agreement would be a practical prelude and a serious step to resolve all regional issues, including the Middle East problem, the main Arab cause, which is the Palestinian problem, the Iraq-Iran war, and the problem of southern Lebanon.

He added that Kuwait looks forward to the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow and hopes that such a summit will have a positive effect on these regional issues.

The second round of talks is expected to be held at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow.

2d Round of Talks

LD1105131488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1157 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Muwait, May 11 (KUNA)—The second round of Kuwaiti-Soviet talks, held here Wednesday, tackled wide-ranging issues, including the Gulf conflict, the Palestinian cause and the forthcoming super powers summit.

The meeting was co-chaired by director of Europe's department at Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Faysal al-Salih al-Mutawwi' and the Soviet roving ambassador and official envoy of the Foreign Ministry Mikhail Sytenko.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that today's round of talks, which was held in an atmosphere of frankness, came in completion of the first round, held yesterday, under co-chairmanship of the foreign undersecretary and the visiting Soviet diplomat. The two sides tackled the Iraq-Iran war, its repercussions which threaten freedom of navigation in the Gulf sealanes, as well as world peace and security. The Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause, in light of the popular upheaval in the occupied Arab territories, and efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Mideast, were also subjects of discussion.

In this regard, the source added, the Soviet Union expressed support to the convocation of the conference under the U.N. umbrella while Kuwait reiterated its stance which stipulates the importance of participation of all concerned parties, including the five permanent members in the Security Council and the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Participation of the PLO constitutes a major factor contributing to the success of the proposed conference, the source said.

The Kuwaiti-Soviet talks touched on the forthcoming super powers summit, due to take place in Moscow between May 29 and June 2, the source said, expressing hope that the Soviet-U.S. summit would tackle, thoroughly, regional problems. He noted that the agreement reached recently regarding a settlement to the Afghan problem is a clear indication of the big powers' ability to solve regional issues.

Sytenko arrived here Monday from Amman where he held talks with senior Jordanian officials.

Trial Date Set for 5 Accused of Security Crimes

LD1005140388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1136 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 10 (KUNA)—Counsellor at the State Security Court Muhammad al-Banna'i Tuesday set next June 4 as a date for trial of five people accused of perpetrating anti-state security crimes. The five suspects, four jailed and one at large, are Ibrahim 'Abbas Ja'far

Zeinel [last name as received], Sulayman 'Abbas Ja'far Zeinel [last name as received], Hasan Ibrahim Muhammad Husayn, Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abbas Ja'afar and Ahmad Husayn Khamis.

The first four suspects, who are all Kuwaitis, are charged with obtaining explosive materials and plotting for committing crimes of assassination of the state security, making explosives for criminal purposes, damaging buildings and killing people working in them by means of explosives, and using force and violence against officers of the central prison.

The second suspect was accused of unrighteously possessing funds owned by the state, whereas the first, third and fourth were charged with consenting to the crime which, consequently, occurred. The first and fourth suspects were accused of manufacturing and obtaining a mortar gun, without legal license.

The public and the press, as per official entry permits, will be allowed to attend the first open hearing.

To obtain entry permits, applications should be submitted for this purpose to the court secretary at the 8th storey of the justice palace for endorsement by chairman of State Security Court.

Envoy Rejects Iranian Claims in Letter to UN

LD1005184688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1734 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] United Nations, May 10 (KUNA)—Kuwait Tuesday reaffirmed it is not party to the destructive war between Iraq and Iran and asserted it will not permit non-Kuwaitis to establish a presence in Kuwait or permit the use of its land, waters or airspace. In a letter addressed to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan rejected similar allegations made by Iran.

"Kuwait, like all peace-loving countries, has endeavoured to find a just, peaceful and honourable solution to this destructive war," he said. "This admirable effort is one of the solid foundations of our policy."

He expressed regret at what he called Iran's "false and unrealistic allegations" against Kuwait and noted the intensification of the language of the Iranian threats, contained in its official notes to the U.N., suggest "the existence of deperate designs against Kuwait and its territorial integrity."

"Kuwait views these notes with deep concern, particularly the latest note from the Iranian delegation ... which contains a veiled threat against the security and stability of Kuwait," he said. He said the Iranian threats flagrantly contravene and violate the charter, international law and the principles of good neighbourliness.

"While exercising the utmost degree of self-restraint, Kuwait draws the world community's attention to the gravity of the latest threats which the Iranians may carry out, especially since they have already fired a Scud missile at Kuwait," he said.

"The continued repetition of such threats seriously increases the tension in the region at a time when Kuwait has been seeking to ease it and to end the tragic war between the two neighbours, Iraq and Iran."

Abu al-Hasan called on the members of the Security Council, particularly the five permanent ones, to take steps to adopt a "clear and unequivocal position" vis-a-vis the Iranian threats against Kuwait.

PDRY

Further on Oil Cooperation Agreement With YAR

PM1105075188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 May 88 p1, 2

['Abd al-Bari 'Atwan report: "PDRY Energy Minister Reveals to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have Begun To Implement Joint Utilization of Oil"]

[Excerpts] Aden, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It has been decided that bilateral meetings between the oil ministers in the two parts of Yemen will begin within the next few days to draw up a practical formula for implementing the agreement reached by the leaders of the two countries regarding utilizing common oilfields on the borders between the two parts, namely in the two areas of Ma'rib and Shabwah, and forming a joint company for this purpose.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and energy and minerals minister, emphasized that natural resources, whether in the northern or southern part, belong to one Yemeni people, since there is one Yemeni territory, there are no borders within the one homeland, and the agreement concerning the formation of a joint company will be implemented in the near future.

Husaynun refused to give any details about the terms on which the company will be based. He said it is premature to talk about the details at this stage. [passage omitted]

Yemeni sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the state of tension that existed on the borders between the two countries has been completely eliminated as the forces were withdrawn after last week's summit meeting between the two leaders, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, during which an agreement was reached to turn the common area into a demilitarized zone. [passage omitted].

Former President Welcomes Inter-Yemen Accords

PM1105083588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 May 88 p 1, 2

[Zaki Musa report: "Former President to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: I Support Agreement Provided It Ends Problems Between the Two Parts"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—After summit meetings between the leaders of the two parts of Yemen, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, held in Ta'izz and Sanaa resulted in an agreement on the utilization of common oilfield areas, the elimination of tension on the borders, and the submission of the constitution of unity to the parliaments in the two countries, more than one question is now being raised over the fate of former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his supporters and whether the agreement will have a negative or positive impact on his political future.

Some observers believe that the two parts have agreed to put this issue aside, at the current stage at least, not to let it obstruct understanding between the two sides and begin with the points of agreement.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad has described the agreement reached between the two parts as positive providing it defuses war between them. In his first reaction he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the agreement is in line with the agreements the two parts reached before the January 1986 incidents." He hoped that the implementation would be of the same level of the agreement signed.

In a telephone contact 'Ali Nasir denied the existence of any change in the treatment of his supporters in the northern part. He praised President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's stand, describing him as one sincerely expressing his commitment to the unity of the Yemeni people by sparing no efforts and ironing out any obstacles facing the unity of the Yemeni people and territory. He also praised the YAR president's eagerness to raise the question of complications caused by the January incidents, namely by stressing in the agreement the need for the two parties to remedy the traces of these regrettable incidents.

'Ali Nasir describes this point as positive because it means that the file on the issue has not been closed.

He denied that the agreement could have restricted the movement and activities of his supporters. He said: The brothers did not request anything from us. We feel at home; our political and informational activities, both inside and outside, remain the same. [passage omitted]

YSP Secretary General Al-Bid Visits Nicaragua

For Managua reportage on the visit to Nicaragua of YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, including his talks with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, see the Nicaragua subsection of the Central America section of the 10 May Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Saudi Arabia

Mauritanian President Arrives on Pilgrimage

LD1005224888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1325 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 10 May (SPA)—His Excellency Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah today for a minor pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Departs on Tour of GCC States

JN111101 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah left the country this morning for Kuwait beginning a tour that will include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Qatar. The minister is carrying messages from His Excellency President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to the leaders of these countries.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and Muhammad Sa'ud [name indistinct], Kuwait ambassador to the UAE.

Soviet Ambassador Interviewed on Mideast Issues

PM1005092388 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 May 88 p 33

[Interview with Feliks Fedotov, Soviet ambassador to the UAE, by Antoine Farah in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: There has been information that Moscow will restore its diplomatic relations with Israel. It has also been reported that Tel Aviv has made it conditional that relations should be restored before Moscow's participation in an international peace conference can be accepted. How true is this?

Fedotov: The Soviet Union severed its diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967 because of Israeli aggression against Arab territory. The cause still stands, since Israeli aggression against the Arabs has still not stopped. The latest example is what is being witnessed by the world today; namely, Zionist violence and repression against the sons of the occupied territories. Thus, I emphasize that Soviet-Israeli relations cannot be restored before

Israel changes its aggressive policy toward the Arabs. When we in the Soviet Union declare our support for Arab causes we do not content ourselves with words; we work via diplomatic or other means to help the Arabs. We always raise the question of peace at the United Nations.

Soviet officials do not hesitate to raise this issue during their talks with foreign officials, especially the Americans. Gorbachev raised the Middle East problem during his talks with Reagan. It was also raised by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his talks with Shultz; and it will be raised by Gorbachev during the summit meeting with President Reagan, which will be held this month, May.

As for the claim that Israel makes it conditional that diplomatic relations with Moscow be restored before it will accept participation in the conference, I cannot understand such talk, since it was Moscow that called for the convening of an international conference. The idea is ours; we are working and the United Nations should shoulder its responsibility.

The Security Council must also shoulder its responsibility at the proposed international conference to reach a formula guaranteeing not only Israel's security, but also that of all the Arab states. And to reach a just political solution to the Palestinian problem Arab solidarity and joint Arab visualization of a solution must be made available. This way a just solution can be guaranteed, especially as it has become evident that a solution cannot be achieved via direct bilateral talks.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you assess the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and how do you expect it to end?

Fedotov: It is clear that the Palestinian people are fed up with the Israeli occupation of their territory. And the uprising expresses anger. It is also clear that the Palestinian people will continue their uprising because there is no other way for them to recover their rights. The Palestinian determination to continue the uprising has been reflected in the large-scale participation in the uprising on the part of women, the elderly, children, and men. This uprising cannot subside before a just solution to the Palestinian problem is secured.

Such a solution can only be achieved via the international conference, which is supported by most states among which are the Arab and Islamic states, socialist and African states, West European states, and also most Latin American states.

AL-HAWADITH: Some emphasize that the Soviet Union is hampering the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 by rejecting the idea of adopting another resolution imposing the implementation of 598. How true is this and why does Moscow adopt such a stand?

Fedotov: First of all I would like to stress that Moscow cannot hamper the implementation of Resolution 598, since Moscow was behind the adoption of the resolution. So how can we kill our own child or stand against him? Resolution 598 is our child and we surely support its implementation. But how can we implement the resolution before the two warring states accept it?

UAE President Shaykh Zayid expressed a similar view when he emphasized during his visit to Cairo that stopping the fighting is the responsibility of both Iraq and Iran—a logical and correct view.

That is why Moscow is currently seeking via diplomatic means to create a suitable climate for accepting Resolution 598, which we consider to be one of the most important resolutions adopted by the Security Council. Its importance in terms of the Arab-Zionist conflict is on a par with Resolution 242.

I believe that the implementation of Resolution 598 requires more patience until both Iran and Iraq are persuaded to implement it. Besides, the Soviet Union is not against the adoption of another resolution imposing the implementation of Resolution 598, if that is possible.

AL-HAWADITH: How does Moscow today view the presence of the U.S. and Western fleets in the Gulf?

Fedotov: Everyone knows that Iran believes these fleets pose a threat to security in the region. It also considers such a presence as interference in the region's affairs. That is why it has decided to fight right to the end. To resolve this problem the Soviet Union proposed that Western fleets be replaced by UN forces. But the proposal received no support. Fine; but at least we proposed a new idea in an attempt to resolve the problem.

What benefit will the presence of Western fleets in the Gulf bring? Are they there to guarantee the security of shipping? I do not believe we have heard the last of the daily hits on tankers in the region. The question is: Why then?

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit will succeed in putting a limit on the regional crises in Central America and the Middle East, as is being reported?

Fedotov: Despite the weight that both the Soviet Union and the United States represent by virtue of their membership in the Security Council and by them being the two superpowers, it does not mean that they are responsible for resolving regional problems in the world, not because of laxity on their part but because many of these problems have nothing to do with them.

They cannot play the role of a world sheriff or policeman, but, of course, they can contribute via political and diplomatic means to putting a limit on regional disputes. And, obviously, we can continue our contribution to

developing the backward states. But this cannot be achieved before disarmament is achieved. This is the prime objective Moscow is currently seeking to achieve.

AL-HAWADITH: How would you describe Soviet-UAE relations? Are they expected to develop?

Fedotov: Relations between the Soviet Union and the UAE are new and the Soviet Embassy has not been in Abu Dhabi for more than a year. But despite this, relations are developing fast at the political and economic levels. In response to instructions from Shaykh Zayid and the Soviet Government, experts in both countries are studying ways of developing economic relations. As for the political level, we are pleased that our stand and that of the UAE are identical with regard to numerous issues, including that of the Middle East and disarmament.

We of course know that the system of government in the Soviet Union and the UAE are completely different; and so are the ideologies. But this does not prevent the two states from establishing good relations.

AL-HAWADITH: How does Moscow see the situation in Lebanon today? And do you believe the presidential election will be held as scheduled?

Fedotov: Obviously I will not give an opinion on the question of the Lebanese presidential election because I consider it to be a purely internal affair. But I will talk about the situation in Lebanon in general. I would like to point out that the Soviet Union, both government and people, wishes the Lebanese people all the best. For many years we have supported Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, and independence.

We have always contributed to finding political solutions to the Lebanese crisis. We backed Lebanon in its war with Israel. We have always sought to restore peace to this beautiful country where I have numerous friends.

But the solution to Lebanon's crisis is in the hands of the Lebanese people themselves. They must decide how to secure a solution. Actually the Lebanese problem is very complicated because of the various types of social differences; and the Lebanese people must live together and tolerate one another. As for who will be the next president and how, this is a Lebanese affair and I will not give my opinion on the matter.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad

Greeted by 'Aziz

JN101137 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1051 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi arrived here this afternoon on a brief visit to Iraq. He was greeted at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as well as the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the director general of the Protocol Department at the ministry, and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

Delivers Message, Departs

JN111217 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 11, INA—Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi this afternoon left here concluding a day-long visit to Iraq during which he conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from President Chadli Bendjedid. The message contained an invitation to President Husayn to attend the emergency Arab summit called for by Algeria to be held next June.

Mr. Ibrahimi also held talks with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister on developments in the Arab region, the continued Iranian aggression on Iraq and preparations for organizing the summit to discuss developments of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Speaking to INA before departure, Mr. Ibrahimi expressed happiness over visiting Iraq and meeting President Saddam Husayn to convey to him President Bendjedid's invitation to attend the proposed emergency summit in Algiers to discuss the Palestinian uprising.

He added that he was happy to convey warm brotherly greetings of the Algerian president and people to the Iraqi president, leadership and people adding that the Algerian people stand alongside Iraqi people in their victories.

The Algerian minister said that recovery of Al-Faw was highly welcomed by the Algerian leadership and people as Iraq had restored an Arab land.

The Algerian foreign minister said that Algeria had always worked for encouraging the U.N. secretary general to implement Security Council Resolution No. 598 as Algeria aspires for peace in this region.

He expressed hope that bilateral meetings he is undertaking would contribute to further unifying Arab rank in service and for triumphing Arab issues of destiny.

He added that his talks with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz aimed at boosting bilateral cooperation between Iraq and Algeria. Mr. Ibrahimi was seen off by Mr. 'Aziz and several senior Iraqi officials.

Tariq 'Aziz on Al-Faw Liberation, UN Resolution

PM1105122188 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 7 May 88 pp 8, 13

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by chief editor Fu'ad Matar in Baghdad; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Matar] As a journalist, I wanted to learn from Tariq 'Aziz: From now on will he continue his tours throughout the world with a view to getting the international resolution implemented now that the Iranian forces' withdrawal has been achieved through courageous Iraqi military action rather than through an Iranian response to international will?

This was what I chiefly wanted to know. His reply was that he will visit Brazil in 2 days and continue to seek the implementation of Resolution 598, since, in Iraq's view, it is a just resolution that should be respected.

I said: Despite this major military achievement?

['Aziz] The liberation of Al-Faw is a gigantic step that can help implement Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Was it not the element of surprise that was the decisive factor?

['Aziz] The factor of surprise is important in the war, but surprise alone does not decide a battle. The thing that can decide a battle, in addition to surprise, is the objective factors available to the Iraqi Armed Forces as a whole. It was such factors that made the Iranian defeat inevitable. [passage omitted]

The Al-Faw battle reflects a number of conclusions. It is clear evidence of the balance objectively achieved before Al-Faw. The people wanted to see this evidence. Before Al-Faw we used to tell international and Arab officials and journalists that the balance between us and Iran had been decided via Iraq's superiority and that the Iranians were displaying stubbornness in continuing the war, but the war has been decided by Iraq's superiority.

Of course, they listened to such talk and took it into consideration because they know that we are not the type of people to brag without reason. But we needed clear and tangible evidence to enhance this analysis. And the Al-Faw battle came to provide this evidence, thus proving that the balance has now changed. Many analysts reached this conclusion quickly.

[Matar] As quickly as Al-Faw was recaptured?

['Aziz] As quickly as Al-Faw was recaptured. But the operation to recapture Al-Faw is not separate from the formula established over the entire period of the war, especially from 1986 until now. It has crowned a phase that completes objective elements. The conclusion that the war has been decided militarily, that is, through Iraq's superiority, means that the Iranian expansionist and aggressive program is practically impossible. Obviously those who visited Tehran told us what they told the Iranians: You will not win the war or achieve victory.

There are also those who write in the press that there will be no winners in this war. But the Iranians made a mockery of this by saying: How can there be no winners in this war? Look at Al-Faw: We achieved victory, crossed the Shatt al-'Arab, and occupied Iraqi territories. So, it is now possible to embark on a similar operation. All we need is forces, preparedness, and some equipment.

To them, it was a question of resources. Now, having been expelled from Al-Faw, what will they say? The Iranian leadership will probably never admit this, and I do not expect it to, but it may admit it tacitly. [passage omitted]

[Matar] And is it possible for the war to end?

['Aziz] Perhaps not. The Iranian regime might continue its aggressive acts in the region. But there is a difference between a strong aggressor who has hope of achieving his aggressive and expansionist programs and an illogical and arrogant aggressor hitting and attacking and, consequently, being beaten over the head so he can be disciplined.

How will we use all this in the interest of peace? My reply is that we must concentrate on the fact that Iran cannot occupy Iraq; nor can it impose its will on the Gulf states; and the states of the region must know their borders and respect themselves as well as others. This is also a lesson for Israel, in addition to the lesson of the uprising—a lesson whose conclusion is that occupation cannot continue and must be eliminated and that the Al-Faw battle reflects the Arab nation's capability in the sense that what the Iraqis have managed to do the Arabs can do.

The future lies not with occupation or the imposition of someone's will but rather with respect for national sovereignty and will. Occupation, be it by Iran or Israel, will be eliminated and we must use such a victory in the interests of the cause of peace, security, stability, and mutual respect for rights and sovereignty.

[Matar] Do you believe that Israel, which has been affected by the liberation of Al-Faw, could intervene in one way or another? And in your opinion, in view of the military capability manifested at Al-Faw, can Iran and those in contact with it be made to admit the new objective fact, namely Iraq's superiority and capability? And, in addition, do you believe that something exceptional could occur that would contribute to a comprehensive change in the Arab stand on the basis that the Iraqi victory could satisfy and assure everyone?

['Aziz] Since 1979 we have been certain that there is an objective alliance, at least in terms of objectives, between Israel and the Iranian regime. Events emerged to confirm that the objective alliance is based on objectives and there is common action between the two sides. Specifically, Israel supports Iran to enable it to continue its program of aggression and war against Iraq and the countries of the region. Israel directly supplies Iran with arms and facilitates its acquisition of the arms and equipment it needs. [passage omitted]

The Iranians were bragging and talking loudly about their conditions for implementing Resolution 598, saying that they would not accept it as it is since they have their own interpretation of it. They also have their own conditions. They will not be able to convince anyone of their ability to impose their conditions or promote their interpretation under the pressure of blackmail. What happened at Al-Faw, and what is happening in general in the balance between Iraq and Iran, is a message to Israel as well, which must come to the correct conclusion. Will Israel intervene? Yes, we expect it to intervene. It has begun to intervene at the information level.

Anyone following what is being written in the Western and U.S. press will find that Israel's supporters have in one way or another been transformed into defenders of Iran. They are warning the U.S. Administration about clashing with Iran while at the same time stirring up hostility against Iraq and the Arabs. This is information that we read. Israel will intervene militarily. It has intervened and will continue to intervene at the intelligence level. Although it has intervened the balance has still changed. [passage omitted]

As for the change in the Arab stand, I would say the following: When I talk about the Arab stand I talk about the Arabs who adopt a sound stand—those who have maintained their stand over 8 years. The Amman summit was the outcome of such a stand. As for those who allied themselves with Iran and banked on the success of the expansionist Iranian approach, they have been defeated inside the Iranian trench in which they placed themselves. Those who supported Iran were defeated in the Al-Faw battle. But those who maintained a pan-Arab stand in solidarity with Iraq against Iran have achieved victory with us in the Al-Faw battle.

[Matar] Do you believe that the liberation of Al-Faw will influence the upcoming Moscow summit, and does it constitute an objective opportunity for implementing Resolution 598?

['Aziz] We hope so. We hope that the Iranian leadership will reach the right conclusion, namely that there is no room for blackmail, intimidation, or pressure and that

this war inflicts costs on both parties and thus must be brought to an end. How? It can be stopped by legally and logically implementing Resolution 598, adopting a cease-fire, withdrawing, exchanging prisoners, and sitting at the negotiating table in order to implement Clause 6 concerning identifying the party responsible for the conflict. But objectively do we expect that to take place? That requires Iranian recognition of reality. And I cannot see the Iranian leadership admitting to reality at present nor do I expect it to do so.

The Al-Faw battle will influence the U.S.-Soviet summit in Moscow because, as I said earlier, there were international assessments, including by the two superpowers, that Iran possesses military superiority in the Iraq-Iran conflict. These states must now examine the correct conclusion, namely that Iran is not superior to Iraq in military terms and that Iraq is capable not only of standing fast in the face of the Iranian expansionist plan but also of crushing and putting a limit on such a plan. Such an objective assessment will have an impact on the situation.

[Matar] Would the war stop if the two leaders, Reagan and Gorbachev, agreed during their meeting in a few days in Mosow that they did not want the new accord to be affected by regional disputes? A final question: Would the war continue even if the two states agreed?

['Aziz] The continuation of the war is a matter only the two warring parties can decide. What is happening is that Iraq wants peace and is willing to accept it whereas Iran does not want peace, and for this reason it can continue the state of war until it changes its position. But Iran is not capable of launching major offensives that would pose serious threats to security and stability in the region, since that is governed by international factors and the international situation.

If the two superpowers were to decide to proceed with implementing the resolution concerning imposing sanctions against Iran as a natural result of its refusal to comply with Resolution 598, and if a resolution was adopted by the Security Council imposing an arms embargo on Iran, and if the two superpowers seriously assumed the responsibility for implementing such a resolution, then Iran's ability to threaten security and stability as well as its ability to continue the war would decline. Iran will probably not move toward peace, but it will turn into an entity incapable of effectively practicing aggression. The two superpowers have an important role to play in order to achieve such a result. [passage omitted]

Official Departs for Committee Meetings in Romania

JN101448 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—Ghassan Radwan, under secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, left here for Bucharest today on a visit to Romania that will last for several days.

During the visit, Ghassan Radwan will lead the Iraqi side to the joint Iraqi-Romanian committee meetings that will begin there tomorrow. The committee meetings will discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, and technical fields.

It is to be noted that the ministerial meetings of the committee will begin in the Romanian capital on Friday [13 May]. Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim will head the Iraqi side to the ministerial committee meetings which will discuss the results of the technical subcommittee meetings.

Conference on Peace Set To Open in Baghdad

JN091757 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 9, INA—Mr Hasan 'Ali, member of the Regional Command of Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said that more than one thousand political, parliamentary, information, religious and cultural personalities have been invited to attend the three-day international conference for peace due in Baghdad on 25th instant [as received].

Mr 'Ali, also secretary general of the Patriotic, Progressive and National Front, said that positive responses were received and that an Iraqi paper would be tabled at the conference to provide the prerequisites of success to the endeavours of following up implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Mr 'Ali added that the conference reflects the importance of carrying out a big mobilized international action for implementing the resolution which embodied the international community's will in peace and finding a final settlement for the war and restoring peace.

The PPNF secretary general said the conference is a noble human demonstration working for peace and stressing keenness of international personalities and organizations on applying the resolution according to the sequence of its items.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,173

JN101824 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 May 88

[Communique No 3,173 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our troops continued their activities for last night and today as follows:

1. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and three engineer vehicles were damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector. In addition, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar forces.

2. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. Furthermore, three shovels [preceding word in English], one gun emplacement, and one observation post were burned and destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. One enemy medium machinegun and one personnel shelter were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Also, one personnel shelter, two gun emplacements, and three infantry positions were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. The criminal Iranian regime used long-range artillery to shell the township of Darband-i Khan last night. The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 May 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN110717 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0703 GMT 11 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 11 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To deprive the Iranian regime of using its oil supplies to commit aggression against our country, the planes of our Air Force launched a raid on a large maritime target at dawn today near the Iranian coast. Having carried out an accurate and effective hit, our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 11 May 1988

Car Bomb Explodes Near Embassy in Nicosia

WA1105122088 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 11 May 88

[By Haro Chakmakjian and Andrew J. Sherry]

[Excerpts] Nicosia, May 11 (AFP)-A car exploded moments after it was turned away from the Israeli Embassy here Wednesday morning, killing "as many as four" people and injuring at least 32 others, Cypriot officials said.

The blast sent an orange-and-black fireball 20 meters (yards) into the air, and broke windows up to 250 meters away, said a correspondent who was near the scene at the time. Two other cars were burned out and several damaged.

Cypriot Health Minister Panicos Papageorgiou said there were "at least two dead but it could be as many as four. We have one child missing and a hand was found many meters away."

At least seven people were seriously injured, including a man whose leg was severed by the blast, said medical officials at nearby Evangelistria Hospital and Nicosia General Hospital.

About 25 others were treated and released for cuts, burns and shock, the officials said.

Minutes before the explosion, a car with a rental license plate approached the Israeli Embassy, where Cypriot police "asked to check it but they drove away," Mr. Papageorgiou said.

"They came back again and our police chased them away. We have the number plate. We will find them."

Aharon Lopez, Israel's ambassador to Cyprus, told Voice of Israel radio that "It appears the Israeli Embassy certainly was the target of the attack."

In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the bombing was a "new attempt to exploit Cypriot soil for anti-Israeli attacks." He expressed regret over the "innocent Cypriot victims of this criminal attack."

An Israel Embassy spokesman here said the mission was not damaged and there were no casualties. "Everybody is fine," he said.

The dead included the driver of the booby-trapped car, police said, adding that they found a briefcase containing a remote-control mechanism about 100 meters away that was apparently used by accomplices to trigger the blast.

But in the confusion surrounding the explosion, some witnesses said they saw two people abandon the car on the bridge and run away. [passage omitted]

"Holy Mother, Holy Mother," reacted Cypriot President George Vasiliou, informed at Nicosia General Hospital of the toll of the explosion.

"Words cannot express my feelings," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "I condemn this as strongly as possible."

On Tuesday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy warned Congress that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was planning to retaliate for the April 16 assassination of a top PLO official.

Abu Jihad, born Khalil al-Wazir, was gunned down April 16 at his home in Tunis. Israel was widely held responsible.

On February 14, a car bomb killed three PLO leaders in the Cypriot port of Limassol. Israel denied responsibility.

In Cairo, Palestinian sources said that the Israeli secret service, Mosad, had recently dispatched two teams of agents to Cyprus to "tarnish the image" of the PLO, the opposition daily AL-WAFD reported Wednesday.

The Mosad agents also planned to liquidate certain "effective" PLO figures, the daily said.

The PLO office in Nicosia told AFP that no Palestinians were among the victims.

Car Tried To Stop at Embassy

NC1105111388 Nicosia Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] A powerful car bomb exploded in Nicosia this morning on the bridge over the Pedhieos River. At least 3 people were killed in the blast and another 10 were injured.

The car with foreign registration plates was being driven towards Nicosia when it exploded. The blast completely destroyed three cars and seriously damaged at least four others. It also blew out windows in nearby shops and houses, as well as causing a one-meter crater in the bridge.

According to reports, the car contained 2 occupants, believed to be foreigners. They had approached the police guardpost outside the Israeli Embassy and when the police asked for their identity papers, they refused to show them and left. Shortly afterwards the police spotted the same car near the embassy and gave chase.

In their attempt to escape, they collided with another car near the crossroads of Grivas Dhigenis Avenue and Prodhromos Street, and then headed for Nicosia when their car exploded on the bridge. The blast could be heard over 8 kilometers away.

Suspect of Arab Origin Arrested

NC1105143088 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1400 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] A total of three persons were killed and eight seriously injured by a terrific explosion caused by a booby-trapped car in Nicosia this morning. The dead persons are two Cypriots and the driver of the car, believed to be a foreigner.

The police have arrested one person of Arab origin who they believe was in the car but escaped shortly before the explosion. Interior Minister Khristodhoulos Veniamin told our station it is believed the person arrested was involved in the incident and can help in the investigation. [passage omitted]

Abu Nidal Group Claims Blast

NC1105140688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1350 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The Abu Nidal organization has claimed responsibility for the booby-trapped car explosion in central Nicosia today which was targeted against the Israeli Embassy building in the Cypriot capital.

Israeli radio reported a short time ago that a spokesman for the organization had telephoned the U.S. NBC television network in New York, saying the aim of this subversive act was to punish Israel for the assassination of Palestinian official Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Four people were killed and 22 others wounded in the explosion.

Ambassador Interviewed

TA1105092588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] A car bomb exploded close to the Israeli Embassy in Nicosia. First of all we can report that none of the embassy employees were hurt. As far as is known, at least two people were killed, and a third was wounded, most likely the passengers of the vehicle. Their identity is still unknown. [passage omitted]

We telephoned Aharon Lopez, the Israeli ambassador in Nicosia, a few minutes ago. Here is the short conversation with him.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Good morning Mr Ambassador.

[Lopez] Good morning.

[Correspondent] Please give us a description of what happened at the Israeli Embassy in Cyprus.

[Lopez] At about 1015 a powerful explosion was heard near the chancellery. It appears that a car bomb blew up some 200 meters or actually 100 meters away. In the meantime we do not have any more information on the target of the vehicle. All the embassy employees and their families are unhurt. We regret that there were several casualties who were passersby.

[Correspondent] Cypriots?

[Lopez] We still do not have information on the identity of the casualties.

[Correspondent] Mr Ambassador, were you in the chancellery when the explosion occurred?

[Lopez] Yes, I was in the building at the time. I heard the explosion, which was very powerful. But it seems to have been some 100 to 150 meters away.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us anything about what you can see from the building; police, army, other rescue forces.

[Lopez] Certainly. We saw a group gathering, there are ambulances, police vehicles at the spot of the explosion, but at this stage we do not have any additional information on the target of the explosion.

[Correspondent] Is the identity of the perpetrators known?

[Lopez] The identity of those responsible for the explosion is still unknown since it happened less than an hour ago, but it is certainly possible that the embassy was the target. It did, however, explode some distance away for some reason. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Comments

TA1105101788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol has said that the attack in Nicosia is yet another attempt to exploit Cypriot soil to carry out anti-Israeli terrorist attacks, meanwhile hurting innocent people.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed Israel's regret on the loss of Cypriot lives following the heinous act committed by the terrorist organizations.

AL-WAFD Cited on Mossad Groups Sent to Cyprus

JN111306 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Egyptian opposition newspaper AL-WAFD quoted Palestinian sources in this morning's issue as saying that the Israeli intelligence organ the Mossad sent two groups to Cyprus to carry out aggressions against foreign interests in the island with the aim of tarnishing the PLO's reputation.

The newspaper AL-WAFD, which was issued before the explosion of the boobytrapped vehicle in Nicosia, pointed out that the PLO possesses information that

some of the missions of the two Mossad groups include the liquidation of some influential elements within the PLO which in turn apprised the Cypriot Goverment of this information. The PLO also informed its Nicosia office of the need to take the necessary security measures.

3-Way Swap Involving Pollards Awaits Approval

TA1105130688 Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew 11 May 88 p 10

[Text] The United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel have been holding contacts over the last few weeks on a three-way spy exchange deal. Last week the assistant of Wolfgang Vogel, an East German attorney, visited Israel. The deal is now awaiting the approval of the politicians. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position on the matter is of significance.

Sources in the United States told KOTERET RASHIT that the candidates for the proposed exchange deal are Shabtay Kalmanovich, who was arrested in Israel on suspicion of spying for the Soviets, another Soviet spy, and Ann and Jonathan Pollard, who are to be handed over to Israel. The U.S. sources refused to specify what the United States would get in return from the Soviets.

According to the sources, Vogel's assistant met with the families of the Soviet spies who are being considered for exchange in the proposed deal.

95 Charged With Murder of Qabatiyah Collaborator

TA1105161488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] In an unprecedented proceeding, the military court in Nabulus today charged 95 residents of Qabatiyah with deliberately causing the death of a resident of the township. All pleaded not guilty. Our correspondent Yoram Ben-Porat has the details:

Five at a time, the defendants were brought into the courtroom. Most of them are young and already familiar with the charges against them. They pleaded not guilty, even before the presiding judge read the charges. Some of the defendants appeared without an attorney and the court postponed the hearing in their case.

Today's hearing focused on the four suspects who are accused of having incited others to commit the act and of breaking into the house of Muhammad 'Ayd Zahrani. One of them hit him with an ax, two others stabbed him, and yet another one set a cooking gas bottle inside the house on fire. According to the prosecution, Zahrani was later taken out of the house and left to hang on an electricity pole until he died. Attorneys are having a hard time defending such a large number of defendants. [passage omitted]

The line of the defense will be that Muhammad 'Ayd Zahrani died of a heart attack and not as a result of the residents' onslaught.

Peres Addresses Socialist International in Madrid

TA1005120988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 10 May 88

[Telephone interview with special correspondent Yisra'el Segal in Madrid by moderator Karmit Gay—live]

[Excerpt] [Gay] The debate of the Socialist International Middle East committee is now in progress. Our correspondent in Madrid, Yisra'el Segal, good day. Before we go back to the committee, I understand Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is to meet soon with the Soviet delegates to the International. Do you know what issues the meeting will deal with?

[Segal] The details are not clear, but we can guess that they will revolve around Soviet-Israeli relations and the Middle East conflict. The hottest news right now is that Shim'on Peres will meet with the Soviet delegates in a short while. By the way, when the Middle East committee session began, Shim'on Peres approached the Soviet delegates who were standing near the limelights. They exchanged some words, and they must have agreed then on a meeting.

The general mood in the committee so far is quite good, from our point of view. The apprehension which accompanied the Madrid convention has been proved false so far. The 3-hour discussion was serious, cultured, and lacking the denunciations so common in the European media.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres opened the session with an address both firm and sentimental. His address settled accounts with both the Palestinians and the Soviet Union.

His main points were: After 40 years and 5 wars, after terrorism and murder, Israel deserves its security rights recognized no less than the Palestinians. If this is not understood, then nothing will be achieved. He further said that we never intended to rule over another nation, I am ready to grant the Palestinians every right in the book, except the right to attack us.

At this point Shim'on Peres banged the podium, shouting in English: We have had enough. He said that Fayiz Abu Rahmah and Hanna Sinyurah, who had spoken during the debate, did not represent the Palestinians.

He said he had consented to an international conference without coercive power even though it damaged his party's interests. He had agreed to it because it could promote peace, but in no way would he agree to a conference which would be able to pressure us. He revealed that an agreement on the character of the

international conference was achieved in the London document, and that Israel would accept no change in the wording of that document. [passage omitted]

Meets With Soviets in Madrid

TA1005170688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 May 88

[Report by special correspondent Yisra'el Segal in Madrid—live]

[Text] The lunch attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Soviet representatives lasted for 2 and 1/2 hours. Israeli Ambassador to Spain Shlomo Ben-'Ami and Peres' political adviser Nimrod Novik attended the meeting on the Israeli side. The Soviets who attended were Aleksandr Zotov, the party official in charge of Middle East affairs, and Aleksandr (Veber), Dobrynin's deputy.

Peres expressed his opinion regarding the Soviet Union's position on issues such as the peace process and the international conference. Peres claimed it is not necessary to discuss at this point—prior to the beginning of the contacts—the authority of the international conference. Peres said that the Soviet Union is an international superpower, so why should it be concerned that its position in the conference would be harmed unless it is given clear and full authority before the conference. First we have to conduct the negotiations and only later should we discuss the position of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Aleksander Zotov reiterated the Soviet Union's positions, but expressed flexibility. He said that the Soviet Union was not speaking about a binding conference. The Soviet Union and the United States have a special interest in the Middle East, and perhaps they should indeed be given a special status which would be different from the status of the other members of the Security Council. Zotov did not reject the possibility of including the PLO people in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Zotov told Peres that the Soviet Union has no monopoly over wisdom, adding they were ready to hear new ideas and to do everything possible for the peace process.

Following the meeting Peres said he discovered openness on the part of the Soviets, and that the difficulties can be overcome. At the end of the meeting it was decided that Peres and Zotov will meet again, and this in itself is a positive sign.

Ties, Peace Process Discussed

TA1105102588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 May 88 pp 1, 2

["Exclusive" report from Madrid by Europe correspondent Daniyel Dagan]

[Excerpts] The Soviet delegates to the Socialist International conference in Madrid did not provide any clear answers about the delay in negotiations on the issuing of visas to the Israeli consular delegation that is expected to visit Moscow. The matter was broached yesterday in the talks between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his aides and Soviet envoys Aleksandr Zotov and Aleksandr Veber. [last name as published]

Interviewed by HA'ARETZ last night, Zotov said: "I do not deal directly with this issue. I do know, however, that there is readiness in principle to permit a visit by an Israeli delegation to Moscow. This is absolutely clear and the decision has not been changed. The final date for the visit will undoubtedly be set in contacts between the two foreign ministries."

In reply to a question on whether the delay in granting the visas has a political significance, Zotov added: "Certainly not. It is merely a technicality. I see no problem here."

Asked whether the talks in Madrid yesterday have led to progress in the Soviet-Israeli normalization process, Zotov said: "We did not set this as a goal to be reached. We discussed the peace process, exchanged views, and got firsthand reports on Israel's position. There is solid ground for further cooperation, although there are also obvious disagreements." [passage omitted]

Peres also met with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernandez-Ordonez and with former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi.

Conference Formula Outlined

TA1105110588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 May 88 pp A1, 2

[Report from Madrid by Tamar Golan]

[Text] "There has been some movement, we know each other better, but progress is slow and difficult," Aleksandr Zotov, the senior Soviet delegate, told MA'ARIV yesterday after his meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Madrid.

Replying to a question on why the Soviets are not making any gestures toward Israel, perhaps in the form of an invitation to Peres to visit Moscow or a dramatic announcement on the resumption of ties, Zotov said: "I am not sure such moves, just before the [Israeli] elections, could really help." The Soviet delegate expressed his hope that the upcoming summit meeting in Moscow would help change things so that the situation will become clearer after the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting.

Zotov said at the meeting: "I have held a number of meetings with Israelis, from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, through Labor Party figures, down to MAPAM members and other Israelis." He lavished praise on Dr Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political aide, who is his regular counterpart in the ongoing contacts between Soviet and Israeli representatives.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 May carries a report on pages one and twenty-two on Peres' meetings in Madrid, and adds the following: "Regarding the absence of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, Zotov said, 'This is indeed an abnormal state of affairs, although the reasons for it are clear. Any move toward convoking an international conference and a just settlement will be a move toward improving Israeli-Soviet ties.'"]

The formula for an international conference proposed by the Soviets in their talks with the Israelis yesterday included 10 points as follows:

1. All the participants in the negotiations will accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 including recognition of the Palestinians' legitimate rights. The Palestinians will decide how to implement self-determination, either in a sovereign state or in a confederacy with one of the neighboring countries.

2. A standing forum that will include the five permanent members of the Security Council and Arabs from the territories will be set up. The UN secretary general will issue an invitation to the PLO to join the deliberations.

3. Other possibilities for the Arab side to make good on this invitation—for example by sending a single delegation or by other ways—should not be ruled out.

4. Work will be conducted in various forms of contact during plenary sessions. These will be more or less regular, at the request of each of the parties. In private talks, the Soviets intimated that what this clause means is that each side will enjoy the right of veto.

5. Working groups on various subjects will be established.

6. In parallel, working sessions on a geographic basic in which every Arab side and Israel will be represented will be held.

7. The Soviets have no objection to interim stages on the road to attaining peace. Clearly some matters are more urgent than others. Thus, for instance, perhaps the territorial aspect will be resolved before the issue of nationality is settled.

8. No free elections will be held as long as the Israeli conquest continues.

9. The Soviets' impression is that the PLO is prepared for interim settlements through the presence of UN forces in the area. Thus, Israel's and the Palestinians' security problems will be resolved.

10. Although many parties are expected to contribute toward this settlement, the United States and the Soviet Union have a unique responsibility toward it.

Shamir Views Ties With Hungary, Shultz Visit

TA1005150888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] Israel wants to tighten its relations with the eastern bloc, said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during a tour of Gedera today. Asaf Ashkenazi was with the prime minister, who was awarded honorary citizenship of the town.

[Begin recording] [Ashkenazi] Nurturing ties with Hungary in particular, but in general with the eastern bloc as a whole, is something we all agree on, said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today in reply to a question on how he would react to an invitation to visit Hungary.

[Shamir] Look, we are definitely interested in expanding and broadening relations with the Soviet bloc countries, including the Soviet Union.

[Ashkenazi] The prime minister wished U.S. Secretary of State Shultz success in his upcoming visit to the Middle East. He added that there is no telling whether or not progress in the peace process will indeed be made.

[Shamir] It is hard to predict. It depends on the proposals he brings with him when he visits. I presume he is trying to pursue his efforts to bring peace to our region, and I wish him success. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Awwad Ends Hunger Strike, Transferred to Prison

TA1005162988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Mubarak 'Awwad has ended his hunger strike. He started striking last Thursday, when he was detained. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that 'Awwad was transferred this morning from the detention facility in Jerusalem to the Nitzan detention facility near the Ayalon Prison in Ramla. He was put in a cell in a wing in which eight other detainees who have been issued deportation orders are detained.

Jonnie Tester, the Prison Service spokesman, confirmed to our correspondent that upon his arrival 'Awwad spoke with the head of the detention facility and afterward ended his hunger strike.

Egypt's Basyuni 'Intervenes'

TA1105131188 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 May 88 p 4

[Excerpts] Dr Mubarak 'Awwad was moved from the Russian Compound detention center in Jerusalem to the Nizzan lockup facility in Ramla yesterday. He is in solitary confinement in a special ward for would-be deportees. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the Egyptian Embassy in Israel submitted a protest on the deportation order issued by Prime Minister Shamir against Dr 'Awwad. The embassy stated that it is the Palestinians' right to remain in their homeland and that expulsions contravene international law.

"Ambassador Basyuni personally interceded on behalf of 'Awwad to get the injunction repealed," read the embassy statement. "We will intervene just as the United States intervenes." [passage omitted]

U.S. Opinion 'Has No Weight'

TA0905092788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 May 88 p 8

[Editorial: "The U.S. Picks a Fight"]

[Text] After dutifully putting up with most every extravagance indulged in by Israel's Likud premiers for over a decade now, the U.S. has decided to put its mighty foot down. It has found a diplomatic casus belli with Israel: the planned deportation by the Israel authorities of Dr Mubarak 'Awwad, an American citizen of Palestinian extraction who is the recent founder and current director of the Palestine Centre for the Study of Non-Violence, in East Jerusalem.

Non-violence: ["non" in italics as published] Dr Martin Luther King, even Mahatma Gandhi, would not have found an excess of it in the inventory of means of resistance proposed in Dr 'Awwad's Arabic-language booklet on the subject. Although it does not feature stones and firebombs, it is also by no means confined to non-payment of taxes and refusal to fill out forms. It specifically includes "attempts to block the roads, disrupt communication, cut electricity, telephone and water lines, prevent the movement of equipment," and similar "non-violent" methods.

Moreover, Dr 'Awwad allows that his non-violence may serve as a legitimate complement, or even prelude, to "armed struggle," and that its outcome could easily be "a secular-democratic state over the entire Palestinian homeland." The main use of non-violence for Dr 'Awwad, it seems, is to help remove the Israeli fear of Arab violence which, as he puts it, should "contribute to the disintegration of Israeli society."

Whatever Dr 'Awwad is, an apostle of non-violence, in any meaningful sense of the term, he plainly is not. Whether he is a security threat, and should be deported, is another matter.

When he arrived on the scene from the U.S., Dr 'Awwad was dismissed by most Palestinians as a dreamer, if not a CIA or Israeli spy. The Israeli authorities ignored him, in effect agreeing with the terrorist enemy that non-violent Palestinian resistance is a nonsense slogan. Some right-wing cranks started back in 1984 to press for Dr 'Awwad's deportation as an inciter to civic rebellion, but it was not until last August that his residence permit was revoked by the Interior Ministry. Dr 'Awwad rightly reasoned that, with the expiration at the end of November of his tourist visa, he would not be permitted to re-enter the country.

Enter the U.S. Government, leaping to Dr 'Awwad's support. Its intercession was briefly effective, but the outbreak, and even more so the continuance, of the intifadha [uprising] eventually forced the issue. Last week the prime minister, acting as interior minister, ordered the visitor deported. The reason given later was that Dr 'Awwad, a PLO agent, had been a major force behind the uprising in the territories. The deportation would have been carried out at midnight last night, had Dr 'Awwad not, at the last moment, petitioned the High Court of Justice in the matter.

There, then, is where the matter now rests. The court will this week decide the legality of Dr 'Awwad's deportation, as well as his argument that he is legally resident here.

The decision is nobody else's. The U.S. Government is entitled to its opinion that Mubarak 'Awwad is in fact a great force for moderation and non-violence, but its opinion has no weight in this case. Its argument that, if Dr 'Awwad had violated the law, he should be brought on charges, would have been shared by many Israelis had this case not involved a tourist. The personal appeal reportedly directed by the secretary of state, George Shultz, to Mr Shamir on grounds of human rights, is utterly groundless.

If Mr Shultz wishes to tell Mr Shamir that the premier's annexationist policy on the territories is a ruinous exercise in futility, let him do so, by all means, and many Israelis will applaud him for it. But let him not make a mountain out of a molehill merely because there is a U.S. citizen sitting on top of it.

Shamir To Visit U.S. During Shultz Mideast Tour

TA1005123088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dalya Shehori, Dalya Refa'el, and REUTER]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will leave for the United States in the midst of George Shultz' visit in the area. Shultz will arrive here on 3 June for a 5-day visit. He will meet the prime minister 2 days later, on 5 June. Shamir will leave for New York on the same evening.

The prime minister is leaving for the United States to participate in the UN General Assembly meeting on nuclear disarmament which takes place once every 6 years with the participation of many heads of state. Shamir will address the General Assembly, appear before Jewish organizations, and give press interviews. He will stay in the United States for less than a week and his planned tour does not include Washington.

Shultz will arrive in the area following the Reagan-Gorbachev summit. Sources in Jerusalem believe that even if the summit is successful from both superpowers' point of view, it would be impossible to advance the peace process due to the short time left before the Israeli and U.S. elections. In any event, if Shultz would like to shuttle after 3 June as he has done before he would only be able to meet Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and foreign minister .

Shultz will set up his headquarters in Jerusalem, the way he has done on his previous visits. Political observers remark that Shamir's leaving for the United States while Secretary of State Shultz is here can be interpreted as a hint to Shultz that a visit to the region at this point is neither particularly useful nor important. [passage omitted]

U.S. Tabah Proposal Rejected as 'Impractical'

TA1105105388 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 May 88 p A6

[Report by Ilan Bakhar and Yehudit Silberstein]

[Excerpt] The Tabah arbitration tribunal in Geneva began working on its ruling yesterday. Nevertheless, efforts to reach a compromise between Israel and Egypt are continuing.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, said yesterday that "the door is open to a compromise." Israel is still awaiting Egypt's reply. Like Israel, Egypt too must express its readiness to pursue the compromise efforts. "Egypt cannot present Israel with conditions," said Ben-Aharon, adding that "whatever compromise is reached, it will not be on the basis of the initial proposal raised by the United States, which was impractical."

The dispute between Israel and Egypt on Tabah will not end even if the arbitrators accept the Egyptian argument and rule for it, said a senior Foreign Ministry source. He claimed that the Egyptians are claiming not only the Tabah area, but an additional plot of land involving approximately 170 meters along the shoreline north of the location of the Israeli border terminal. [passage omitted]

2 Egyptian Youths Sentenced for Infiltrating

TA0905110188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 May 88 p A7

[Text] Two Bedouin youths from the Egyptian part of Rafah who infiltrated the border into Israel were each sentenced yesterday by the Beersheba District Court to 1 year in prison and an additional 6 months suspended sentence. The two were caught in January 1988 after crossing the border wearing shoes with sponge soles for concealing their tracks.

One of the two said during his interrogation that he had contacts with the Egyptian Army and was asked to convey information to it regarding the locations of tank depots and air force bases. The State Attorney's Office has decided not to charge the two with espionage because the youth claimed he has not completed his training in the Egyptian Army.

Rabin on Maydun Raid Effectiveness, IDF Policy

TA1005174988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 May 88

[Vivien Roysten report]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prior to a ceremony conferring on Defense Minister Rabin honorary citizenship of the northern border town of Shelomi, Rabin revealed that although 10 IDF soldiers had been killed in the defense of Israel's northern border while only 1 had been killed in the territories since the beginning of the intifadha [uprising], 95 percent of soldiers prefer to serve in the north. Despite the foiled attempt by terrorists to enter the security zone last night—one terrorist was killed in the encounter with the IDF—Rabin in no way feels that the attempt is indicative of a failure by Operation Law and Order [in Maydun last week] to achieve its goal. The essence of the government's policy, continued Rabin,...

[Begin recording] [Rabin]...is a policy to secure peace to the Galilee but not by the assumption that by our activities we'll end terrorism from Lebanon, but to create to a system of activities to prevent those who want to achieve their goals.

[Roysten] Doesn't this early attempt, though, imply that they're determined to show that it's not going to stop them?

[Rabin] I am not aware that any one of us—in the government, in the General Headquarters, in the Northern Command—believes that one action can put an end to everything. [end recording]

Every action, however, Rabin continued, contributes to the reduction of the activities and capabilities of the terrorists to achieve their targets, to destroy the security zone and hit Israeli settlements.

Rabin Reports Cost of 'Quelling' Uprising

TA1105144488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 May 88 p 4

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Thus far, the cost of quelling the intifadha [uprising] totals 412 million shekels. This was reported by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in reply to a parliamentary query submitted by Knesset Member Mordekhay Virshubsky. This sum will largely be defrayed by canceling some IDF training projects and cutting back those

involving police duties in the territories. The Defense Ministry is demanding a supplementary budget of 236 million shekels from the Treasury to meet these expenses, while offering to cover the remainder by canceling and limiting various projects.

Shomron Appears Before Knesset Defense Committee

Criticizes Settlers' Behavior

TA1005133288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The chief of staff says that there is constant tension in Judaea and Samaria that is caused by the Jewish settlers. In an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Lieutenant General Shomron recalled yesterday's incident in Al-Duhayshah in which settlers fired shots from one of the roofs in the camp after their car was attacked. The chief of staff said that when a stone is thrown it should be reported to the army, and the army will deal with the matter better than others and without causing unnecessary problems. The chief of staff also said that several of those mentioned in the Bayta report will be tried for their responsibility for not coordinating the trip with the army authorities.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that several committee members complained about the fact that the interrogation of settlers involved in the killing of Arabs in Judaea and Samaria has still not ended. The chief of staff said there is a difference in how fast the respective systems responsible for trying Jews and Arabs can carry out an investigation.

Comments on Unrest, Bayta

TA1005152088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] Some of the people mentioned in the report on the Bayta incident will have to face trial, at least with respect to the issue of prior coordination of the hike. The above was stated today by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, who appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] The Knesset committee's discussions with the chief of staff focused primarily on the Bayta report and the conduct of the settlers in the territories. Prior to that, Gen Shomron reported the relative calm has been achieved in the Gaza Strip. As for Judaea and Samaria, the chief of staff said: All in all, we have noticed a low level of activity. The feeling is that the public is not heeding the calls to observe special dates. Shomron added: The agitators of the intifadha [uprising] are still at large, but at least in the foreseeable future, it will be possible to stabilize the calm.

As for statistics, 177 locals have been killed since the outset of the unrest: 144 by IDF gunshots and 33 in accidents or from civilian gunfire.

The chief of staff told the committee members that toward the end of the month of Ramadan next week, some detainees will be released in a bid to draw a distinction between quiet and restive places. [passage omitted] [end recording]

IDF Clarifies Shomron Remarks

TA1005162488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] In reaction to a report we broadcast on our afternoon newsreel regarding statements made by the chief of staff in a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee hearing on tension prevailing in Judaea and Samaria between settlers and local residents, the IDF spokesman has reported that these remarks do not accurately reflect what was actually stated in the hearing. The spokesman added that neither the IDF nor the chief of staff have any intention of rebutting criticism that refers to fractions of inaccurate quotes.

Bomb Safely Dismantled in Tel Aviv 10 May

TA1005175288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] A medium-size explosive charge was discovered about 1 hour ago in Tel Aviv's central bus station. The charge was safely dismantled. A street cleaner discovered the explosive charge hidden inside a newspaper on a sidewalk in Yesud Hama'ala Street. Tel Aviv police bomb disposal experts detonated the charge without any damage or casualties. This is reported by our police affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar.

Gaza 'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered, Captured

TA1005162188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The security forces operating in the Gaza Strip uncovered a terrorist squad this week. The squad members are suspected of plotting to carry out a suicide attack in Tel Aviv and of perpetrating several attacks both inside Israel and in the Gaza Strip.

The squad belongs to Fatah, and its members are residents of Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunus, and Rafah. The security forces suspect that the squad members planned to perpetrate grave attacks in Israel and the Gaza Strip, including a suicide attack in which a squad member would die as an explosive charge was to explode in the Tel Aviv central bus station.

The squad members are likewise suspected of carrying out attacks in Israel and the Gaza Strip, including the planting of a bomb in a Rishon Leziyyon school yard on 28 February 1988, and the planting of an additional explosive charge on 4 March near an IDF roadblock in Dayr al-Balah, which left four soldiers slightly injured.

The squad members are also charged with planting still another bomb on a bus in Rehovot on 20 March and with placing a roadside bomb on a route used by an IDF patrol in Rafah in late March. The security forces are continuing their investigation.

3,000 Lebanese Replace W. Bank, Foreign Workers

TA0805113788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] The Employment Services director general has issued the Contractors Center with a permit to employ 300 south Lebanese workers in construction jobs. They will join some 1,400 south Lebanese workers already employed in agriculture, services, industry, and in seasonal jobs in fruit picking and packaging.

Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that Director General David Mena' has decided to open a new Employment Services branch in Metulla which will deal with the employment of workers from southern Lebanon. The decision was prompted by the growing number of requests by employers who wish to hire south Lebanese workers. The Employment Services intend to increase the number of south Lebanese workers to 3,000, after coordination with South Lebanese Army Commander Antoine Lahd. They will replace workers from Judaea and Samaria and foreign staff.

'Sabotage,' 'Terrorist Acts' Increase 600 Percent

TA0805114588 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 88 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Text] An unprecedented increase of 600 percent in the number of acts of sabotage and attempted terrorist attacks in Israel was registered for the 4 months since the beginning of the uprising in the territories.

This was disclosed by Assistant Commander Shlomo Aharoniski, head of the Israeli police bomb disposal unit. During the same period the number of people injured in these acts increased by 50 percent. 60 people were injured as opposed to 40 last year.

"A significant change has been detected in the quality and the technical ability of the terrorist attacks," said Aharoniski. "The explosive charges are more sophisticated. Terrorists are trying to emulate the 'Lebanese model' in Israel, meaning more car bombs, roadside bombs, and attacks in the least expected places."

— Compared to the same period last year, the largest increase in the number of attacks in the last 4 months—630 percent—occurred in Jerusalem. Within the Green Line (Jerusalem excluded), the number of incidents increased by 490 percent, while within the territories it rose by 550 percent.

— The number of terrorist attacks with firearms went up by 700 percent.

— The use of Molotov cocktails went up by 650 percent.

— Attempted sabotage by placing explosive charges went up by 12 percent.

Unrest, Related Events in Territories Reported

Court Upholds Detainees' Appeal

TA1005081688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The High Court today issued an interim injunction against the transfer of three detained residents of the territories from a Judaea and Samaria detention facility to a facility in the Negev. The appellants had contended that their transfer from the occupied territories to inside the territory of the occupier is against the Geneva Convention.

Detainee Appeals Deportation

TA1005155188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Muslim Daghir Shirbahi, a Jerusalem resident held in detention in the Ramla jail, appealed to the High Court of Justice today against the possibility of future deportation. Shirbahi maintains that the Shin Bet is pressuring him to collaborate despite his refusal. Mikha'el Birenhack reports from Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] In his appeal, Shirbahi recorded his history. He crossed the Jordan River bridges many times, was tried in Jordan, charged in a civilian court in Israel, and more. Meanwhile, he has been summoned to the Russian Compound [Jerusalem police headquarters] and offered the option of collaborating, which would lead to an extension of his visa. Shirbahi refused. Two months ago he was detained again on suspicion of having committed security offenses, which he maintains were proved unfounded. Once again he was pressured to cooperate, but he again refused. Now he fears deportation.

The appeal will be debated by a three-member panel of judges tomorrow morning. [end recording]

2 Reservists Sentenced

TA1005191888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 May

[Text] Two more reserve soldiers have been sentenced to jail terms for refusing to serve in the territories. Sergeant Avraham Qave was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment and Private Yosi Goldman to 28 days. Our correspondent notes that since the beginning of the uprising 21 people who refused to serve in the territories have been tried and at present 7 of them are in prison.

Water Resumed After Bills Paid

TA1105043488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Civilian Administration resumed water supplies to the village of Bayt Fajjar near Hebron because the residents paid their water bills.

The Civilian Administration is threatening to cut off water and electricity supplies to 10 other villages which have still not paid their debts.

The curfew on the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem continues.

Al-Shawwa on New Gaza ID Cards

TA1105044388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpts] Authorities in the Gaza Strip will continue their project today to replace the 400,000 identity cards in the area. The effort is now being conducted in the (Rima) neighborhood of Gaza City. [passage omitted]

The project has come under criticism from prominent Gaza residents. Steve Rodan interviewed the former mayor of Gaza City, Rashad al-Shawwa. Al-Shawwa said the residents are overtaxed. He also told our reporter that the fact that some Gaza residents are taking new identity documents does not mean that the uprising is over.

[Begin Al-Shawwa recording] It doesn't prove that the uprising has ended, nor does it prove that people accept the circumstances. People are definitely against the present conditions, they are against occupation, and I don't think even using these methods is going to make some change. [end recording]

Trade Conducted Out of Houses

TA1005115888 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 May 88 p A3

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] Extensive trade is being conducted out of houses and on sidewalks in the territories. This household industry has sprung up following the punitive measures imposed by the Israeli authorities on merchants who refuse to open their stores when ordered, and in the face of the intimidation campaign against them by local committees in various towns. The committees seek to force them to open for business only during the hours set by the unified national command of the uprising.

The East Jerusalem daily AL-NAHAR reports that many merchants have moved goods into their homes. According to the paper, homes in Tulkarm, for example, have turned into major shopping centers. Several houses have been turned into slaughterhouses, replacing those on strike, and into butcheries where the local population goes to shop for meat.

In accordance with the opening hours set for the afternoon by the unified national command of the uprising, sidewalks fill with stalls selling various products. Trucks arrive loaded with fruits and vegetables but prices are very high: A crate of tomatoes costs some 30 new Israeli shekels, and a crate of eggplants costs up to 28 shekels. Bakeries bake pita bread behind locked doors and make door-to-door deliveries. Workshops, such as shoe factories in Hebron, operate under difficult conditions behind locked doors.

As a result of this set-up, the population in the area does not suffer from hunger or food shortages. Although products are easily accessible, savings accumulated by years of work in Israel are running low. Many people complain about the sky-high cost of many basic staples compared to their price in Israel, especially of sugar, rice, tea, coffee, and canned fish and meat. The residents are afraid to shop in Israel, but the few laborers who report for work in Israel try to conceal products they purchase in stores in Tel Aviv or Beersheba in their bags. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Editor's Detention Extended 5 Days

TA1005155588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The detention of Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat, an editor of DEREKH HANITZOTZ, [THE WAY OF THE SPARK] was extended by an additional 5 days today. The details of the court deliberations are still blacked out, so this is what our legal affairs correspondent Yasmin Qeyni can tell us:

[Begin recording] This is the third extension of Ya'aqov Ben-Efrat's detention. This DEREKH HANITZOTZ editor has been in custody for 25 days now, and still the specifics of the court's discussions are censored. His attorney, Walid (Zahalata), was allowed to meet with him, and he reported that Ben-Efrat was looking well.

In the course of the past few days, the lawyers handling the DEREKH HANITZOTZ affair, have been allowed to consult with all their clients. They maintain that an Arab detainee, who had been beaten up, was introduced into their cell to intimidate them into breaking their vow of silence. This is the background for a message the attorneys sent to the prime minister's office today complaining about this Shin Bet questioning method.

It should be pointed out that this time Ben-Efrat's interrogators requested only a 5-day extension of his detention, because if they want a longer extension, they must seek the approval of the attorney general. Further extension beyond that will require such a license before the courts are approached. [end recording]

5 Judges To Hear Demjanjuk Appeal in December

TA0905180288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The appeal by convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk will not be heard by the Supreme Court until the beginning of December. The court today decided that five judges would sit on the case. The five will be picked by the 10th of June.

Shamir Congratulates Mitterrand on Reelection

TA1005163888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening dispatched a congratulatory message to French President Francois Mitterrand on his reelection. Shamir wrote: Please accept my warm congratulations. I sincerely hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between our peoples and countries will continue.

Herzog Sworn in as President for Second Term

TA0905175188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] President Hayim Herzog a few minutes ago made the declaration of allegiance at a ceremony in the Knesset marking the beginning of his 2d 5-year term. The president was reelected unopposed with the support of almost all the parties. [passage omitted]

Alignment Supports Rabin's Defense Policy

TA0905150088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The Knesset Alignment faction issued a statement supporting the defense policy of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in his treatment of the events in the territories and the IDF operation in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that the Alignment faction rejects Minister Sharon's criticism of Minister Rabin and calls it an impudent attack by the knight of Israel's military foul-up in Lebanon.

Alignment Knesset Member Resigns, Replaced

TA1005115588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Knesset Member Aharon Har'el of the Alignment today submitted his resignation from the Knesset. In his letter, Har'el notes that a conflict of interest might occur between his new job as director general of Israel Broadcasting Authority and being a Knesset member. He will be replaced by Avraham Shohat, head of the 'Arad local council.

Political Preference Poll Shows Right Leading

TA0605125288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 May 88 p A5

[Text] Dr Rahel Yisra'eli, head of the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute, examined the patterns of political preferences in Israel in a public opinion poll conducted of 1,152 people during the second week of April.

The poll's findings, quoted in Knesset seats, are compared in the following table to the situation that existed in Israel on the eve of the 1984 elections and to previous polls conducted in January and March 1988.

	Apr 88	Mar 88	Jan 88	1984 elections
Likud	39	39	33	41
Alignment (with MAPAM, without Yahad)	38	39	46	43
National Religious Party and Morasha	4	5	5	6
SHAS	4	3	2	4
Agudat Yisra'el	2	2	2	2
Tehiya	9	9	9	5
Tzomet	3	3	1+	0
Citizens Rights Movement	6	6	6+	3
HADASH and Progresaive List for Peace	7	7	7+	6
Kakh	5	5	6+	1
MAPAM	2	2	1+ others	6

The steady edge held by the leftwing bloc since the 1984 elections deteriorated toward the end of 1987, parallel to the growing unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

During the last few months, the Alignment has been losing power, the left and extreme leftwing parties have retained their force, while the Likud and the rightwing parties have strengthened. The narrowing gap between the two blocs in Israel today has led to greater support for the right than for the left.

The support for the blocs looks as following:

	Apr 88	Mar 88	Jan 88	1984 elections
Extreme left	7	7	6	6
Left and left of center	47	47	54	49
Right and right of center	51	51	44	46
Extreme right	5	5	6	1
Religious	10	10	9	6
12 others				

[Figures in tables as published]

Poll Shows Israeli Arabs Identify as Palestinians

TA1105073488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 May 88 p 2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ruth Elaine Fletcher]

[Text] An overwhelming percentage of Israeli Arab high school students in the Triangle village of Al-Taiyiba support the raising of the Palestinian flag even inside Israel.

Most of the 220 11th-and 12th-grade students surveyed also said they do not consider themselves Israeli Arabs, but Palestinian Arabs who are citizens of Israel. One third of those surveyed said they would rather live in a West Bank Palestinian state than in Israel.

The survey is to be published next week in the Arabic periodical, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, published by the Circle of Arab Academics whose chairman is Dr. Ahmad Tibi, a native of Al-Taiyiba working as a surgeon in Jerusalem. Tibi said the survey reflected the "political maturity" of Arab students in Israel.

Eighty-four per cent of the students surveyed supported the raising of the Palestinian flag in Israeli Arab localities because "I support this flag." Ten per cent opposed this, "because the flag of the state is my flag." No opinion was expressed by 5.6 per cent.

Only 4.7 per cent of those surveyed defined themselves as Israeli Arabs, 57 per cent as Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel, and 27 per cent simply as Palestinian Arabs. Eleven per cent gave other definitions, primarily Moslem Arab.

Asked where they would prefer to live, 32.5 per cent chose a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza District rather than Israel, 60 per cent preferred to remain citizens of their native land, and eight per cent expressed no preference.

On the question of who should be Israel's partner in peace negotiations, 89.9 per cent said the PLO, 5.1 per cent said only the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza District, 1.9 per cent said Jordan and 2.6 per cent said Egypt. Other partners were named by 1.5 per cent.

Nearly 76 per cent said the solution to the Arab-Israel conflict is a Palestinian state alongside Israel, 16.7 per cent supported a secular democratic secular Palestinian state in all of mandatory Palestine, and 4.4 per cent supported the return of the West Bank to Jordan and the former Gaza Strip to Egypt.

Nearly two thirds supported organized Arab-Jewish meetings, in which Al-Taiyiba is heavily involved, 21.5 per cent said the meetings are not useful and should be discontinued and 16.6 per cent had no opinion.

King Husayn on Arab Force, Mideast Conference

JN101715 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Amman, 10 May (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has stated: We have always been loyal to the Palestinian cause from Al-Husayn I to 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn. We have always done our best to prevent the implementation of the colonialist scheme that had the East Bank targeted to establish the Jewish state. The king added: We also succeeded in saving the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem in 1948 until we lost it in 1967 during the war that was imposed on the Arab nation and in which we placed all our potentialities under a unified Arab command.

In an interview with AFP that was transmitted this morning, King Husayn added that Jordan is ready to do its part to serve the sons of Palestine so that they may regain their rights on their national soil. His majesty added: Since the cause is the cause of Palestine, the Palestinian side must assume its responsibility within the framework of an international conference and carry out its duties.

He said: What we mean by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is a Palestinian delegation and a Jordanian delegation that will attend under the umbrella of a joint delegation. He added: We insist that such a conference should have a continuous role until it completes its work. Our understanding is that the UN Security Council will be the guarantor and will assume responsibility for the final solution when it is realized.

His majesty said: I proposed to several brother Arab leaders, especially during the Amman summit, the idea of forming an Arab force that will comprise three divisions. In spite of its situation and the challenges it is facing, Jordan is ready to contribute with one-third or half of its forces to form a force of some weight to confront any danger the Arab nation may experience in any of its regions.

The following is the text of His Majesty King Husayn's interview:

Question: There exists a somewhat new Jordanian stand saying that if an international Middle East peace conference convenes, Jordan will negotiate over the occupied territories on the East Bank if a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for negotiations on the two banks is not formed. Does this mean that Jordan has abandoned the West Bank? How will this reflect on the Jordanian institutions?

Answer: The Jordanian stand is not new. It proceeds from the 1974 Rabat summit resolution which considered the PLO as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. The issue that will be discussed in the international conference will not only be the issue of occupied territories belonging to countries.

In addition to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 338 concerning the international conference, and Resolution 242 concerning the impermissibility of the occupation of territories through war, the issue at hand is the settlement of the Palestinian cause in all its aspects. From this premise, Jordan cannot represent the Palestinians. Jordan has absolutely nothing to do with this issue.

This is the stand that has solidified recently. Jordan has no wish to spread its influence or exercise its control on the Palestinians or on any inch of Palestinian territory in any form whatsoever.

In any case, we have always been loyal to this cause, from Al-Husayn I to 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn. We have also succeeded in the efforts to prevent the implementation of the colonialist scheme which had the East Bank targeted within the framework of the establishment of the Jewish state. We also succeeded in saving the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem in 1948 until we lost it in 1967 during the war that was imposed on the Arab nation and in which we placed all our potentialities under a unified Arab command.

Actually, and with respect to the international conference, our past attempts were devoted to facilitating the participation of the Palestinian side in the negotiations through their representative, the PLO, within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This agreement became deadlocked and then there was the uprising. I believe it would be more correct to describe it as a revolution throughout all the occupied territories by a people that have suffered while reaffirming their rights and identity, and while stating that the PLO is their emblem. From this premise, Jordan cannot carry any more burdens.

Jordan is ready to do its best to serve the sons of Palestine so they may regain their rights on their national soil. However, since the cause is that of Palestine, the Palestinian side must assume its responsibility within the framework of an international conference and must carry out its duties.

Question: Has the idea of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinain delegation been completely discarded?

Answer: We used to believe that the PLO rejects the idea of a joint delegation as a matter of principle. However, it recently became clear that the PLO has proposed to the brothers in Egypt to go together in a joint delegation to the international conference. The Egyptian leadership responded negatively to this proposal. Our brothers in Egypt felt that this would create some kind of misunderstanding at a time when we are coordinating with Egypt and Syria and exchanging information on all new developments. Also, we have continuously kept the PLO in the picture.

In any case, what we mean by a joint delegation is a Palestinian delegation and a Jordanian delegation that will go under the umbrella of a joint delegation. The Palestinian delegation will represent the PLO and will

exercise the responsibilities that befall it. The Jordanian delegation will discuss matters dealing with the occupied Jordanian territories on the East Bank. As a confrontation state, the Jordanian delegation will also discuss many other issues, such as the matter of water, and scores of other issues that concern all the Arab brothers surrounding Israel and Palestine.

Question: If there is no agreement on the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and if the PLO holds unilateral negotiations on the West Bank, what will happen to the institutions based on the unity of the two banks, especially parliament, where the two banks are equally represented? Will Jordan dissolve parliament?

Answer: Regarding this question, I can refer to the unity decision in 1950, which is in line with the Arab spirit and goals. It clearly shows that the unity did not harm Palestinian rights regarding the final settlement of the Palestine question. On the contrary, the unity stressed Jordan's support for the Palestinians regaining their rights.

These dimensions were discussed at that time. They are still being discussed. If the lands return to their owners and the people exercise their right to self-determiantion, then they can choose whatever they want. Then, and only then, will everything be reconsidered in light of developments.

We are very concerned about remaining united here in Jordan. We want everyone, whether he is of Palestinian, Iraqi, or Syrian origin, to understand that all citizens are equal in their rights and duties. We must understand that Jordan, more than any other side, is a target for our enemy which harbors the idea of an alternative homeland. We have maintained the Arab character of the land, we have saved it from hostile plans, and we will continue to protect it with God's help.

Question: If the PLO and Israel reach an agreement on the West Bank, will Jordan relinquish it?

Answer: This question should be posed to the Palestinians and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on all the Palestinian territories.

Question: You recently said there was a convergence of views between the Soviet Union and the United States. What are the points of that convergence?

Answer: It seems to me the convergence of views is confined only to headlines. When we discuss details, we find differences between the two positions. The Soviet position is closer to us and, in fact, is identical with the Arab position, while the U.S. position differs to a large extent from the position, which has solidified in the minds of many people in the world and in the Soviet Union.

Question: Do you not think that the U.S. position has developed on some points?

Answer: The U.S. position has moved recently. But if we study the situation from 1967 up to now, we can affirm that the United States has greatly retreated from its previous position. At this stage, we are trying to continue discussions with the U.S. side to seek clarifications on its positions. We are also trying to encourage a dialogue among the five permanent Security Council member states. If there is an understanding among these countries and if the United States restores its credbility with the Arabs, then we can say that this will constitute an effective real weight that can serve the peace process and solidify the proposed concepts.

For example, we notice that the meaning of the international conference is still not clear. We support an effective conference, which does not oppose any agreement or impose any solutions. The conference should help all parties to the dispute reach the desired solution.

Question: Is there an agreement on the Arab level about the authorities of the international conference and about the way these authorities are to be used?

Answer: So far, we go on insisting that this conference should have a continuous role that must be played until the conference's work is finished. This stems from our understanding that the UN Security Council will be the guarantor or sponsor and that it will shoulder responsibility for a final settlement when such a settlement materializes. I cannot give you a detailed answer.

However, I can tell you that we continuously coordinate our stands with Egypt and with brother President Husni Mubarak. I take pride in the fact that President Mubarak is a genuine Arab brother and friend. At the same time, we have discussed many topics and issues with brother President Hafiz al-Asad. Regarding principles, there are no differences whatsoever and coordination is good.

Question: In case the emergency Arab summit convenes in Algiers, what will Egypt's position be after you made a distinction in your latest statements between Arab summits and the Arab League—the distinction that would enable Egypt, as you said, to participate in the summit without returning to the Arab League?

Answer: As a matter of fact, Arab summits are separable from the Arab League and vice versa. The agreement to form the Arab League was secured at the Inshas Arab summit. Egypt's participation in the summit is one of the issues that must be discussed by the Arab leaders before an agreement can be secured on the summit.

Question: Are we to understand that Jordan will only attend the summit if Egypt participates?

Answer: I would not say that it is a condition. It is a Jordanian demand. I believe it is high time for this nation to unify its ranks. Furthermore, it is necessary to work continuously to resolve all negative aspects that lead to disunity and fragmentation. Egypt cannot dispense with the Arabs nor can the Arabs dispense with Egypt.

Question: How do you view the possibility of convening the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers on 7 June—the summit that has been called to discuss the uprising in the occupied Arab territories?

Answer: We welcomed the Algerian initiative regarding the convening of the Arab summit. However, the issue of timing emerges. Are there any issues dictating that the summit be convened at a certain time? If we take the Palestinian dimension for example, do you believe that there will be a new development between now and the date scheduled for convening the proposed summit—a development that deserves to be tackled at summit level? As for the issue of support and backing, each Arab state is committed to supporting our brethren, and this support is being provided.

On the other hand, it has become an acceptable principle by Arab leaders that no issues should be singled out for discussion to the exclusion of others since the summit is a chance to discuss any issues that any Arab party seeks to raise. I believe that the process needs further consultations and contacts.

Question: How do you view the forthcoming phase in the region? Do you expect the current U.S. diplomatic efforts to lead to tangible results during U.S. Security of State George Shultz' upcoming visit to the Middle East?

Answer: For a long time, I have been dissatisfied with the U.S. stand. I have been dissatisfied with what I have personally sensed regarding the convergence of views and attitudes between the extremist Israeli right and American right, if we are allowed to use the term. However, we must continue our dialogue with the U.S. side inasmuch as we must continue our dialogue with the influential states in this world, especially the five permanent UN Security Council member states. Of course, this dialogue chiefly includes the Soviet Union.

I do not believe there is a problem regarding Europe and the PRC or regarding the majority of world states. The problem lies with Israel and its obstinate stand and also with the continued U.S. support for Israel despite the fact that Israel's stand toward the U.S. initiative is negative.

Question: Do you expect a new war in the region if the current political efforts fail?

Answer: If a just and acceptable solution is not achieved, the situation in the region will sooner or later explode. I am confident that right will emerge victorious. We, the Arabs, must be alert to the gravity of the situation. We must reorganize ourselves before we talk about the stands of other parties.

Question: Some reports have indicated that you suggested the formation of a joint Arab force.

Answer: Yes. I personally proposed this to a number of my brother Arab leaders, especially during the Amman summit. I presented an idea for setting up an Arab force comprising three divisions. Despite its circumstances and the challenges it faces, Jordan is prepared to contribute a third or half of its military force to form an Arab force of some weight. I think this force must be trained and be ready to perform any duty on request to confront any threat to any part of the Arab nation. The force should be based on the Arab League Charter and the Arab Defense Pact. The nucleus of this force could be 30,000-strong.

To be realistic, we do not consider it possible for the entire Arab world to contribute to establishing this force. To begin with, the force should be harmonious in so far as standard and armament are concerned. We then set the highest conditions for joining this force with regard to training, armament, and preparation. Looking at the situation in the Gulf, thank God, Iraq is steadfast and firm.

However, I have felt anguish over the past period because the Arabs have not been able to provide more support for Iraq. Otherwise, the war would have ended and the danger would have stopped. All the Gulf countries are threatened individually. They need to mobilize all their reaources and capabilities to defend themselves. They also need to feel that the Arabs are supporting them.

Question: What was the Arab response to this suggestion?

Answer: Welcome and concern. But, God willing, we must achieve what is required through followup.

Question: Jordan has exerted goodwill efforts with regard to Afghanistan. What is the nature and outcome of these efforts?

Answer: The Afghan problem is of concern to all of us here in the Arab and Muslim worlds. Jordan has made a modest effort which I hope contributed to laying bases for solving this problem. We were in contact with our friends in the Soviet Union, our brothers in the Arab region, and our brothers in Pakistan. We tried to do whatever we could and we succeeded to a large extent in performing some of our duty to achieve what has been done so far. We think that international issues are closely bound.

For instance, the U.S.-Soviet agreement on medium-range missiles has resulted in a concentration on the Afghan problem. In general, the Afghan issue is related

to other issues in hot regions. We hope that attention this time will be directed to this particular region, especially the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestinian issue.

KUNA Cites Husayn's 'Exclusive Interview'

LD1105090588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 11 (KUNA)—Jordanian monarch, King Husayn stressed that the Palestinian uprising alone will not liberate the occupied land, warning that if this revolt was not "invested" to solve the Palestinian problem then this would lead to a "disaster" on all countries in the region and "maybe on world peace as a whole."

He affirmed in an exclusive interview with chief editor of "AL-QABAS" daily published here today, Jordan's absolute and unlimited support to the Palestinians in the occupied land, praising the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the face of the Israeli oppression and barbarism.

King Husayn warned against an Israeli plan of establishing "an alternative state" for the Palestinians in Jordan, and pointed out that the Arabs of Palestinian origin in Jordan enjoy the same rights and duties of the Jordanians.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian monarch stressed that his country has no ambitions in occupied Palestine and that it will not represent the Palestinians in the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East.

He noted that the Palestinians have three alternatives and they are: a unity with Jordan, a federal union or independence. He said, however, that the unity and the federal union are the "path" of all the Arabs and not only the Palestinians and Jordanians.

Asked on the possible success of the international peace conference if convened, King Husayn replied that the success "depends on the coordination between the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and on the crystallization of an Arab (unified) stance that is flexible."

King Husayn renewed his criticism of the American stance in the region by saying that Washington must restore its credibility "which reached to zero point."

The Jordanian monarch commented in reply to a question on the reconciliation between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by saying "we hope that this encounter is a beginning to an understanding and unity in the interest of the Arab nation."

Since Saudi Arabia and Jordan have served relations with Iran, the Jordanian king was asked if he supports a similar move by the Arab League, he said this is an issue that "concerns each state separately," noting, however, that the Arabs should take a unified stance in confronting Iran.

He praised the Iraqi victory in liberating the Al-Faw Peninsula from the Iranian occupation and stressed that the war of the Gulf will stop when Iran realizes that the Arab nation is determined to stop it from achieving its goals "of establishing a Persion empire."

Prime Minister Confers With Algeria's Ibrahimi

JN101136 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi at his office this morning. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri attended the meeting. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Arab arena, ways to support Arab solidarity, and arrangements for convening an emergency Arab summit in the Algerian capital on 7 June. Dr Ibrahimi left Amman this morning.

Before leaving, Dr Ibrahimi told PETRA-JNA that during his visit to Jordan, he met with His Majesty King Husayn and handed him a message from his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid. The message dealt with the emergency Arab summit to be held in Algiers, which was set as a result of the Arab League Council's recent meeting to discuss the Palestinian Arab people's blessed uprising.

He added that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn covered the concerns of the Arab family and that his meetings with the prime minister and the foreign minister dealt with ways to promote Algerian-Jordanian dialogue, which is expected to yield much in favor of our Arab nation's causes. He was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

Al-Rifa'i Explains Limitations on Publishing

JN110900 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 May 88 pp 1, 16

[Text] (PETRA-JNA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i visited SAWT AL-SHA'B last night. For 2 hours the prime minister spoke on the worries of the Jordanian press and SAWT AL-SHA'B's experience. He praised SAWT AL-SHA'B'S standards and the awareness of its employees. Al-Rifa'i affirmed the government's support for SAWT AL-SHA'B to continue its duties and deliver its informative message which reflects the clear and frank Jordanian national and pan-Arab stand.

The prime minister said that when dealing with SAWT AL-SHA'B, we do not want it to speak for the government. We want it to be the newspaper of the Jordanian state which expresses Jordan's clear and firm policies and principled stands in all fields.

He added that from the beginning, the government has supported this establishment by broadening the base of its shareholders to protect the shareholders' interests and to give true and objective freedom of expression its normal position in the Jordanian press.

The prime minister pointed out that the recent agreement between the 3 Jordanian daily newspapers to impose a ceiling of 24 pages came to save on the excessive cost of paper, the price of which has doubled worldwide, and to curtail expenditure which results from the transfer of hard currencies outside Jordan to import paper.

The unnecessary and excessive number of pages makes our press resort to filing pages resulting in a lack of concentration in social, political, and economic issues which are of interest to the citizens and which create a national and pan-Arab awareness for them.

The prime minister praised the responsible spirit of the employees at this newspaper despite some circumstances they face. He also praised their determination to sacrifice material privileges so that SAWT AL-SHA'B can continue to publish. He added that this paper often distinguished itself as a forum conveying the true and shining image of Jordan and objectively tackling attempts to cast doubts on the clear and firm Jordanian stand.

The prime minister then answered questions from the editorial board on a number of local, Arab, and international political issues.

The prime minister reaffirmed the constants of the Jordanian stand which were expressed in the six principles announced by His Majesty King Husayn on the initiatives to solve the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said that the Jordanian stand expressed by His Majesty King Husayn has always been strategic rather than tactical.

For his part, Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah praised the standard of employees at SAWT AL-SHA'B. He also pointed out the contextual and artistic progress of the paper.

On his arrival at SAWT AL-SHA'B, the prime minister was received by the information minister; Munir al-Durrah, secretary general of the Information Ministry and chairman of the board of directors; a number of board members; 'Ali al-Safadi, director of PETRA-JNA; Sultan al-Hattab, responsible editor of SAWT AL-SHA'B; and the editorial board and staff of the paper.

NBC Appoints New Correspondent After Expulsion

JN111118 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 May 88 p 20

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—JORDAN NEWS AGENCY has learned that the U.S. television network NBC has designated Michael Silver as its correspondent in Jordan instead of Rick Davis.

Paper Praises 'Dynamic' Role of Private Sector

JN110627 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Good Signs"]

[Text] We see several encouraging signs that the private sector in Jordan has started to play a more dynamic and appropriate role in the economic growth of the country, while the government seems to be moving towards a strategy characterised by a more logical balance between the private and the public sectors. The investment mission to Japan is an example of the kind of public/private sector cooperation which we think is appropriate for Jordan.

The government took the lead in organising the mission to Japan, while the private sector took the hint and sent a delegation of serious businessmen and women who recognised the vast potential for doing business with Japan. It is noteworthy that not only did some private companies go to Japan, but also that some private sector business associations, such as the Chamber of Industry, participated in the effort. We see the same thing happening with the Chamber of Industry and the Chamber of Commerce's involvement in efforts to resolve the problem that has arisen over government-backed exports to Iraq. A third case in point is the investment mission that will travel to the United States later this month, in which the private sector figures very prominently.

The whole effort on privatisation of public corporations is also indicative of a healthy trend, which our country is well placed to explore. The national airline, the bus company and the telecommunications corporation are the first three entities being considered for privatisation, though there are scores of others that make good candidates.

The practical fact of the matter is that the government does not have the financial or human resources, or the institutional compulsion, or the managerial depth, to keep assuming responsibility for routine tasks that are clearly more efficiently assumed by the private sector. It is the right moment, in a regional and domestic context of slower economic growth and more scarce financial resources, to make the transition from a state of overt and deep government control of many aspects of the economy to a state of more private sector involvement within a regulatory and quality control framework in government hands.

The pattern that has worked well in Jordan has always seen the government providing the legal and investment environment in which the private sector can do its work, or the government taking the lead in launching large projects which are beyond the financial reach of the private sector alone. That such a pattern is being reasserted, with the private sector playing its appropriate role, strikes us as a good thing, for which both the government and the private sector should be commended.

Briefs

Relations With Mali

A Royal Decree has been issued agreeing to establish diplomatic relations between Jordan and Mali on the level of a nonresident ambassador. A royal decree was also issued approving the appointment of Nayif Khalid Mawla as Jordan's ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Malaysia. A royal decree was also issued approving the appointment of Sa'id al-Batayinah as Jordan's ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Djibouti. [Text] [*JN110725 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 May 88 p 20*]

'Sources' Cited on Movement of Foreign Hostages

Still Within Southern Suburb

NC1005102888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Available information on the fate of the Hizballah-held foreign hostages indicates that they have not been moved to the Al-Biqa' plain where pro-Iranians are located.

Informed sources in the southern suburb have said that these hostages were moved from one place to another within the suburb during the clashes between the Hizballah and Amal militias.

In Home of Hizballah Official

NC1005173388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1721 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Security sources have cited local residents as saying that some hostages were seen being taken to the home of a senior Hizballah official in the Bi'r al-'Abd area. This was reported by REUTER.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Cease-Fire Holding

NC1005063388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The joint committees have succeeded in stabilizing the cease-fire and ending the fighting in the southern suburb, unimpeded by sporadic outbursts of gunfire.

The six committees include 12 representatives from the Amal Movement, 12 from Hizballah, and Iranian Embassy representatives. There are also six Syrian observers in each committee. Consultations during the past few hours have led to a cease-fire and are helping to get the situation back to normal.

Clashes Flare Up

NC1005110388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets flared up 30 minutes ago between Hizballah and Amal gunmen in Al-Shiyah, Harat Hurayk, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Al-Musharrafiyah.

The clashes are still occurring. Fighting between the two parties broke out in Burj al-Barajinah after an Amal center in the Burj al-Barajinah circle came under fire and a rocket fell in the area, wounding one person.

Hizballah sources said earlier that a member of Hizballah was injured today when the organization's positions in Al-Musharrafiyah came under sniper fire.

'Legal Force' Sought

NC1005142788 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 10 (AFP)—The leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite community Tuesday appealed for a "legal force" to end fighting between Shi'ite factions near here and warned that measures taken so far would prove ineffective.

Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that steps taken last night and early Tuesday to end the clashes "will only postpone a major explosion."

He said it was now necessary for "a legal force to assume responsibility for security in the (southern) suburb," where fighting between Amal and Hizballah Shi'ite militiamen has killed 117 people since Friday and forced thousands of residents to flee to safety elsewhere in Lebanon.

Lebanese newspapers have made repeated appeals to Syria, which has 10,000 troops in West Beirut, to move into the southern suburbs in force. [passage omitted]

Casualty Count Updated

NC1005163588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] According to a count by medical and security sources, 154 people have been killed and approximately 411 others wounded in the Amal Movement-Hizballah clashes that took place between Friday and last night.

In addition, some 3 persons were killed and 9 others wounded in the clashes that took place at dawn today in the areas of Al-Ghubayrah and Al-Shiyah in the southern suburb.

The Amal Movement has accused Hizballah of firing on its command headquarters in Burj al-Barajinah and wounding an Amal member. Meanwhile, Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of wounding a Hizballah member in the Al-Musharrafiyah area.

Amal Arresting Hizballah Men

NC1005183288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] According to information from the South, the Amal Movement today continued, for the 2d consecutive day, to arrest Hizballah elements. The arrests took place especially in the villages of Jibshit, Khirbat Silm, Haddathah, and Qabrikha.

Meanwhile, a responsible Hizballah source has accused the Amal Movement of launching campaigns, which he described as hysterical, against the party and the so-called Islamic resistance in the South after contact between Minister Nabih Birri and the Movement's security official, Abu Hasan al-Qubaysi.

Kan'an Meets With Fadlallah

NC1005180488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Prominent in the news today is the visit which Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, paid to Hizballah's spiritual leader, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, and a statement Kan'an made in front of his visitors [as heard], which was quoted by the WAKALAT AL-ANBA' AL-DUWALIYAH [a local Lebanese news agency].

In his statement, Kan'an said that Syria is concerned about what is happening in the southern suburb and warned that it will not allow the fighting to continue.

He added that if the efforts to end the fighting fail, Syria will respond to the cry by the citizens of the suburb for relief, and rescue them from death and destruction.

Kan'an pointed out that the situation in the suburb now is very similar to that which prevailed in West Beirut prior to the entry of the Syrian forces into the city.

What Kan'an said publicly to journalists, however, took the form of assurances coupled with caution. He said: Committees exist which are attempting to stop the current fighting. Later we will seek methods to prevent any future fighting.

He added: All parties concerned have made a decision to control the situation. We want cooperation. Certainly, any decision we make jointly is serious and credible.

Meanwhile, Fadlallah told UPI: Our talks were an opportunity to discuss the need to close this tragic dossier to devote ourselves to the basic issue of confronting Israel, international arrogance, and political developments.

'Fierce Battles' Raging

NC1105055588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0525 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Fierce battles involving the use of artillery, rockets, and machineguns have been taking place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in various parts of Beirut's southern suburb since midnight last night.

Amal sources told the Voice of Lebanon this morning that the movement had been taken unaware by a Hizballah escalation of the situation at midnight. This, the sources said, compelled the movement to launch defensive counterattacks.

The Amal Movement regained its positions in Harat Hurayk and advanced in the direction of Hayy Madi in Al-Shiyah, tightening the siege on more than one Hizballah position, particularly the one at Al-Hajjaj.

The movement also regained its positions in Al-Ghubayrah and took full control of the area between the airport circle and Mar Mikhayil Church.

The sources pointed out that battles are now raging in Hayy al-Sullum and Laylakah, but denied that Hizballah had seized its main center in Burj al-Barajinah.

Hizballah sources told the Voice of Lebanon that their fighters have repulsed the attacks which Amal launched in the following five areas at 0130 this morning:

The Amal operations room axis in Harat Hurayk, the Al-Siba'i axis in Burj al-Barajinah, the Al-Mashnuq-Al-Mihaniyah al-'Amiliyah axis, the Al-Rasul al-A'zam axis on the airport road, and the Salim al-Ghubayrah Station axis.

The sources added that Hizballah took control of the Al-Murayjah area, Hayy al-Sullum, and Al-'Imam 'Ali Street and seized the Amal Movement's main center in the Burj al-Barajinah al-Raml area.

The sources further pointed out that Hizballah forces are now surrounding the Amal operations room and command headquarters in Burj al-Barajinah.

Iranian Embassy Comments

NC1105062388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpts] The joint security committees, which continued their work throughout yesterday, have failed to prevent the renewal of violent clashes between Hizballah and Amal militias along most axes in the southern suburb after midnight.

Intensified political contacts and efforts have also failed to contain the situation, calm it down, and deal with the causes of the fighting, which is into its 6th day. [passage omitted]

In light of this, the Iranian Embassy issued the following statement a short while ago: In view of developments in the southern suburb early this morning, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam has announced his readiness to come personally to the axes of the fighting to bring about a disengagement of the two sides.

This is prompted by his desire to see an end to this painful bloodshed and stabilize the cease-fire once and for all. He is ready to proceed with this undertaking if the two warring parties declare their willingness to respond.

Sheykh ol-Eslam urgently invited the committee comprising Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, officials of the Amal Movement and Hizballah, and representatives of the Iranian Embassy to meet immediately and discuss these sudden developments. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Advancing

NC1105071588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpts] Fierce battles involving all types of weapons are continuing between Amal and Hizballah in various parts of the southern suburb. [passage omitted]

Hizballah sources reported a short while ago that Hizballah fighters have captured Amal's main center in Burj al-Barajinah. They added that the fighters advanced toward Hayy al-Sullum and Al-Shuwayfat and took control of the entire Burj al-Barajinah area.

Amal sources have said that Dawud al-Irani is conducting the Iranian Revolutionary Guard operations in Bi'r al-'Abd. Hizballah sources said that 'Abd al-Ilah al-Musawi, known as Abu Haydar, has arrived from Al-Biqa' to expel the Amal Movement from the Al-Shiyah area.

They added that the house of Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in Harat Hurayk was hit by several shells and that two of his guards were wounded.

Cease-Fire; Fighting Abates

NC1105093088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Efforts are underway to enforce a cease-fire agreement announced at 1045 today. Fighting has died down noticeably following the violent clashes which broke out at midnight.

It has been agreed to allow ambulances to enter the area of the clashes via three roads: the airport-Cocodi road, the airport bridge-Al-Ghubayrah road, and the airport-'Ayn al-Dilb road.

1 Killed, 4 Escape in Infiltration Attempt

NC1005113588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] A gunman was killed while four others managed to escape during an infiltration attempt within the security zone this morning. According to security sources in the South, an Israeli patrol spotted the group planting an explosive device in the vicinity of Al-Tiri village. An Israeli tank fired at the group, killing one of its members. [passage omitted]

Israeli Helicopters Raid Villages in South

NC1005171688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] It has been learned that Israeli helicopters have raided a number of villages in southern Lebanon. The results of these raids are not yet known.

Papers on Recent U.S. Security Council Veto

JN110801 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 May 88

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "The U.S. Exception in Refusing To Condemn the Zionist Aggression," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Within less than 4 months, the United States vetoes four consecutive UN Security Council draft resolutions condemning Zionist terrorism and its aggressive, expansionist, and fascist practices in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. Once again the United States affirms its blind and absolute bias for the Zionist enemy.

The United States also affirms that it is the exception in international forums and political establishments in patronizing and defending the Zionist enemy and supporting it against the Arab land and nation. Moreover, the United States seeks to provide every political support and international cover for the Zionist enemy's expansionist, aggressive, and bestial policy. The U.S. veto against the draft resolution presented by nonaligned states condemning the barbaric invasion carried out by the Zionist entity's forces in southern Lebanon reveals again that the United States has no intention of reconsidering its Middle East policy and cannot give its policy any balance or impartiality.

Any wager on an expected U.S. stand is a losing one in advance because the United States and the Zionist enemy are two faces of the same coin in view of the role assigned to the Zionist entity by the United States on the one hand and in view of the Zionist influence on U.S. political decisionmaking on the other. This fact need not be proved. The United States itself proves again and again that its only place is alongside the Zionist aggressor. It provides this aggressor all the means to continue its occupation of the Arab land at the expense of Arab rights, land, and future.

It has been clear since the beginning of the Zionist forces' incursion into Lebanese territory that this would not have taken place without U.S. approval, support, and backing. This is because the Zionist enemy dares not launch any aggression against the Arab nation without coordination and mutual understanding with the United States. The Zionist entity would not have been able to continue its occupation of the Arab land for a period of 40 years unless the United States embraced and approved the policy of aggression, usurpation of lands, bestial crimes, and repressive and terrorist methods in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon.

Under the headline "The United States and Continuous Delusion," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Reagan Administration enthusiastically supported the Zionist aggression. The U.S. representative at the United Nations mounted pressure to prevent the UN Security Council from issuing a resolution condemning the Zionist forces' total destruction of Lebanese villages. The Reagan administration does not hesitate to make every effort for, or extend any support to, its Zionist allies as long as Israel commits aggression only at U.S. orders and defies the international community under a U.S. umbrella.

This prompts Washington always to resort to the veto to obstruct UN efforts. The U.S.-Israeli joint defense treaty, in its form and content, means one fact only; namely, all the Zionist forces' sins and crimes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, or in southern Lebanon and the Golan are carried out in accordance with prior coordination and understanding between the two strategic allies.

AL-BA'TH continues: If the U.S. veto has obstructed the expression of the international will over the past 20 years at least, the United States' possession of this right in the higher international establishment becomes a means not to support the just world march, but to destroy the purpose for which the United States was granted this right at the UN Security Council.

AL-BA'TH concludes: As long as the U.S. holds this right, we expect no peace in the region. The United States will have to expect further surprises because all the Arabs are convinced that the United States is an enemy of the Arabs and that the Israeli aggression would not have continued had not the United States been partner to it.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Ireland

JN101154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 May

[Text] To bolster friendly relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Ireland, the governments of both countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them on the embassy level.

Afghanistan

Soviet General Says Mujahidin Planning Attack

AU1105094588 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] Moscow, May 11 (AFP)—Afghan rebels are preparing to launch attacks on the roads withdrawing Soviet troops will take on their way back to the Soviet Union, a senior military official said in an interview published Wednesday.

Information obtained by the Red Army showed the guerrillas "are preparing intensively for war on the roads," said General Vladimir Lobov, first deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces. But, he added, "If they force us to fight, we won't retreat."

(Meanwhile diplomats in Islamabad said big convoys of arms have been heading from Pakistan to Afghanistan in the past few weeks as the mujahidin rebels rush to build up their reserves before the Soviet pullout which starts officially on Sunday.

(Mujahidin rebels in southern Afghanistan have distributed leaflets in Ghazni town saying that they would allow the Soviets to leave peacefully, western diplomats said in Islamabad Tuesday, but were meanwhile massing in the northern Lowgar valley where Soviet-Afghan troops abandoned two key security posts last week.)

Gen. Lobov's statements appeared in the daily MOSCOW NEWS in an article headlined "The Day Awaited for Nine Long Years."

Asked if the withdrawal of an estimated 150,000 troops constitutes the Red Army's first-ever defeat, Gen. Lobov said: "We didn't come to Afghanistan to win or lose a battle, but to help the Afghan people keep their independence."

An article in the latest edition of the trade union publication TRUD called for a monument to be erected in memory of soldiers killed in Afghanistan and for medals to be given them.

Politburo Assesses Missile Attack on Kabul

LD1005190088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee Politburo met today. The Politburo comprehensively assessed the incident in which a missile hit the populated areas of the city of Kabul on 9 May which resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of several of our compatriots in the auspicious month of Ramadan.

While expressing sorrow and indignation at such criminal actions by elements opposed to peace and stability, the Politburo instructed the relevant security authorities to maintain security for the city of Kabul and the province.

Rocket Attack on Kabul Kills 23, Wounds 28

LD1005180488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 May 88

[Excerpt] Our compatriots know that elements connected with extremist groups, professional criminals hostile to the peaceful life of our compatriots, have carried out another anti-Islamic and inhumane crime.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that yesterday at about 1800, while people were preparing to break their fast in accordance with God's orders at the end of 23d day of the holy month of Ramadan, extremists, using heavy weaponry, fired 17 ground-to-ground rockets at some residential areas of Kabul city. As a result, 23 Kabul residents became martyrs and 28 others were wounded. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Receives Bamian Elders 10 May

LD1005221688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] This afternoon, esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, received elders and representatives of the people of Yakawlang District, Bamian Province. During the meeting, which was held at the Delkosha Palace, a few verses from the Holy Koran were recited and then esteemed Najibullah spoke about maintaining peace in the country and the importance of the Geneva accords.

He said: During the 10 years of the imposed war our people have suffered great loss of life and material. The republican Afghan state, deeply realizing the people's need to put an end to war and to establish peace, has resolutely decided to search for ways toward lasting peace and the cessation of war. It therefore declared a policy of national reconciliation with great flexibility and took a brave step on this noble and humanitarian path.

Esteemed Najibullah said: It is necessary for all Afghans to understand in such conditions, when peaceful steps have been taken toward ending war and bloodshed in our country, that maintaining peace is the great and important task of every man and Muslim of our country.

Esteemed Najibullah added: In this regard, you honorable elders and representatives of the people, taking into account the critical moments of the history of the country and the signing of the Geneva accords, which have provided the path of peace and tranquility in our country, should, more than ever before, move toward maintaining unity in an atmosphere of fraternity between the tribes, clans, and various nationalities of the country and

not let our people burn in the fire of war, or let hatred increase among our compatriots. Peace is the greatest need of our people and homeland and all Afghans desire it.

Then, a number of representatives of the people of the Yakawlang District, Bamian Province, expressed support for the Geneva accords, the elections to the National Assembly, and the complete implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, and they stated the problems that they face in their region.

BAKHTAR reported that the esteemed Najibullah issued the necessary instructions to the relevant authorities concerning the solution of environmental problems and the complaints of the people of Yakawlang district, Bamian Province. The deputy minister of nationalities affairs was also at the meeting.

'Terrorist Group' Crushed in Jowzjan Province

LD1005215788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, a six-man terrorist group connected with extremist groups which attempted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of Jowzjan was crushed yesterday by the security forces of the country.

The report adds that six different kinds of weapons, including light and heavy weapons, along with thousands of cartridges and hand grenades, were seized by the security forces.

Security Forces Seize Arms, Ammunition

LD1005223888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] A secret cache of arms and ammunition belonging to an extremist group was discovered yesterday in the Shahidan village of Sorobi and was seized by the security forces.

BAKHTAR's military section reported that the arms and ammunition seized with the help of the peace-loving people of Sarowbi, Shahidan, includes 39 RPG's, 21 boxes of DShK machine-gun ammunition, 5 shells for recoilless rifles, 85 mortar shells, 4 antipersonnel mines, and 1 rocket.

According to another report, one of our compatriots was martyred and six others were injured in the residential area of Ghazni city by the heavy weapons of the extremist groups. The injured were taken to the hospital in Ghazni Province and their condition is improving.

Explosives placed in a can of cooking oil and left in the province's Agriculture Department was safely defused in time by the security forces.

According to another report, a pistol for firing poison darts, hidden in Shiwaki District and intended for use in terrorist operations, was discovered by the police of Kabul city and confiscated.

India

Further Details on Bomb Blast at Citibank

BK1005162888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] A powerful bomb exploded in the American Citibank in Connaught Place area of the capital today killing 1 person and injuring 14. The explosion occurred shortly after noon when customers were waiting in front of the teller counters of the bank located in the Jeevan Bharati Building. Two of the injured are stated to be serious.

Soon after the explosion, police cordoned off the area and ordered evacuation of the building. A bomb disposal squad got into action to see if any other explosive device was planted. A dozen fire tenders were also pressed into service.

Our correspondents, who visited the scene, saw windowpanes shattered. The body of the deceased had been torn to pieces. The inside of the bank premises was strewn with glass and chunks of concrete.

Speaking to newsmen this evening, the police commissioner, Mr Vijayakaran, said the bomb had been kept in a briefcase and placed under a sofa in the bank's reception.

He said the police have not yet established who is responsible for the incident. He said the blast was similar to the explosion in the Hansalaya Building in New Delhi in August 1986.

The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, making a statement in the Lok Sabha, said one person, Satish Chowdhary, of (Noida) had been killed in the incident. He told the house that the crime branch of the Delhi police has been entrusted with the investigation.

A similar statement was made by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chitamani Panigrahi, in the Rajya Sabha. Replying to clarifications sought by some members, the minister told the house that the unity and integrity of the country will be maintained at any cost.

Earlier, members from both sides of the house expressed anxiety and anguish on the incident and described it as a direct challenge to the government.

Home Minister on Golden Temple Situation

BK1105092988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 88

[Text] The government has given clear instructions to the security forces to take strong action against terrorists building fortifications in the Golden Temple complex area.

This was stated by the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, in the Lok Sabha today. He was replying to anxious inquiries made by several members from both sides on the latest situation in Amritsar.

The minister categorically stated if any fortification is built by militants at any time or efforts made to strengthen their fortifications, strong measures will be taken to neutralize them.

Mr Chidambaram said the government is fully conscious of the nature of the problem, which he described as complex and sensitive. He told members that the government is contemplating a series of measures to rid the Golden Temple complex of the terrorist menace.

The minister said he is not in a position to inform the house of the nature of the measures contemplated. However, he added, that in a day or two the government will brief the opposition leaders about it.

Replying to the main question, the minister said some militants had shouted antigovernment and antinational slogans inside the complex on the baishaki [harvest] day last month. A case has been registered in this connection.

Speaking about the latest situation, Mr Chidambaram said there has been intermittent exchange of fire between the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the militants last night and this morning. The situation is being monitored at the highest level.

9 'Terrorists' Killed; Amritsar Curfew Continues

BK1005164488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, nine dreaded terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces near village Tandra under Vickywin police station in Amritsar District this afternoon.

According to an official spokesman the encounter continued for 5 hours. It followed when the security forces raided a hideout of the terrorists on definite information.

The killed included the gang leader, Gurnam Singh Gharjala, who carried a reward of 50,000 rupees on his head. This gang was responsible for a number of terrorist killings in the area. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession.

The spokesman said one CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawan [soldier] was seriously injured in the encounter.

Elsewhere in the state, five persons have been shot dead by terrorists in separate incidents since last night.

The indefinite curfew clamped in Amritsar yesterday continues. The situation is under control. About 500 devotees stranded in the Golden Temple complex were safely evacuated this morning.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1638 GMT on 10 May in a similar report adds: "Indian security forces surrounding an estimated 100 Sikh extremists holed up in the Golden Temple late Tuesday cut off power and water supplies to the shrine in an apparent attempt to starve the militants out, security sources said. The sources said the marbled complex was plunged into darkness some 12 hours after more than 500 devotees trapped since an intense firefight Monday had fled the complex. Intense firing broke out after sunset, the sources said, adding that an attempt by top Sikh priests to talk to police had apparently failed."]

Iran

Majlis Speaker on War, Relations With Turkey

NC1005081688 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will maintain its sacred defense until its just conditions are met, adding that the Islamic fighters will make the advances required to bring down the Saddam regime. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was being interviewed by a Turkish radio and television correspondent in Tehran. On efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and Iran's conditions for this, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the following: The war will end if the UN Security Council declares Saddam the aggressor and a place is selected for putting him on trial.

On the war of the cities, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Imam Khomeyni's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, said: We do not want the people to suffer from the war. Iran's retaliatory attacks are aimed at deterring the enemy. However, if we wish to destroy cities as Saddam has been doing, then it must be known that Iran has the superior strength.

Replying to a question on Turkey's stand on the Iran-Iraq war and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Iraq, he stated: We expect Turkey to support justice. Because of the martyrdom of thousands of Iraqi people as a result of the Saddam regime's use of chemical gases, the peoples of Iraq, Turkey, and Iran did not want Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to travel to Baghdad to hold talks and shake hands with criminal Saddam.

Referring to the effects of the war on Iran and Turkey, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We support Iranian-Turkish cooperation on matters which concern the region. Although our common interests are in question, we in fact prefer to avoid certain moves in the war which may disrupt our relations with Turkey. However, this has its limits.

Asked about the Islamic forces' advance into northern Iraq and whether the Kurds will be allowed to take part in the future administration of Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Iran cannot interfere in the administration of Iraq. The Iraqi people have the right to determine their own future.

Asked to give his opinion on the Islamic fighters in northern Iraq, the existence of an oil pipeline in that region, and the possibility of Turkish intervention, he replied:

We believe Turkey is realistic, and we expect it not to get involved in the problem in northern Iraq. In the event of an intervention with the ensuing clashes and confusion, exporting oil from Kirkuk will be impossible. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey must cooperate with the Iraqi people in order to maintain the existence of Iraq as a country, nation, and land. In addition, the people of Turkish origin who live in Iraq must be able to enjoy equality with other Iraqis.

Turkish Units To Guard Mecca During Hajj

NC1005084688 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1600 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] According to an agreement Turkish President Kenan Evren reached with the Saudi crown prince when he visited Saudi Arabia last year, the Turkish Armed Forces will guarantee Saudi Arabia's defense, reports AL-NASR, a magazine published in Cyprus. The magazine report said that the Turkish military units, composed of 12,000 to 15,000 men, will replace the Pakistani units in Saudi Arabia.

The magazine further stated that the units will arrive in Saudi Arabia during the month of Ramadan to defend the interests of the Saudi regime in Mecca and Al-Madinah.

The Pakistani military units refused to shoot at the pilgrims during last year's demonstrations in Mecca, the report claimed, and the Saudi regime has thus decided to replace the Muslim Pakistani troops with Turkish military units. In return, Saudi Arabia will sell oil to Turkey at lower prices and assist it with investments in Saudi Arabia.

Statement on U.S. 'Aggressions' Circulated

LD1005170188 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—The public relations office of the Oil Ministry on Monday sent some pictures of Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, attacked by the U.S. naval units on April 18, to foreign oil officials and mediamen throughout the world.

A statement, enclosed to the pictures called on all international organizations and oil companies to condemn the U.S. for its blatant aggressions on the Iranian oil platforms.

On April 18, the statement said, heavily armed American Marines supported by U.S. naval units savagely attacked Nasr and Salman platforms, inflicting considerable losses on them. A number of the Oil Ministry employees aboard the platforms were also martyred in the U.S. attack, it added.

The timing of the U.S. naval attack with the realization of a joint U.S.-Iraq-Kuwait plot to attack the Al-Faw Peninsula proved that the Reagan administration, despite its false claim that American naval fleets are in the Persian Gulf to protect ships, is seeking tension and insecurity in the region, it said.

The statement noted that objectives behind the U.S. attacks on the oil platforms were to divert world public opinion from the Baghdad regime's criminal chemical attacks on the Iranian liberated town of Halabjah, and to assure Saudi rulers of its protection.

American leaders spare no crimes or aggression to safeguard Washington's illegitimate interests in the region and to continue plundering the resources of regional countries, it said.

The attacks on Salman and Nasr oil platforms, two of most active Iranian oil rigs in the Persian Gulf with a daily output of 150,000 barrels of oil each, destruction of their industrial and residential installations and massacre of their crew by the U.S. Navy are all in contravention to international regulations which should be probed by qualified judicial bodies, concluded the statement.

Tehran Reviews Beirut Cease-Fire Mission

LD1005202488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 88

[Report by unidentified correspondent on efforts of embassy officials in Beirut to broker a cease-fire between the Amal Movement and Hizballah; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] The situation in southern Beirut has calmed down and the cease-fire scheduled to begin last night is still holding. This cease-fire went into effect after the two

parties involved agreed to it. It was also the result of the relentless efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the fighting in the southern suburbs between (?factions).

Committee representatives—including the Amal Movement, the Hizballah, Syrian officers, and some representatives of our embassy in Beirut—have been stationed at various fixed points in southern Beirut since last night to ensure that the cease-fire is being observed. The members of these committees have been directly in touch with the operation room [otaq-e amaliyat] in our embassy in Beirut and are reporting to the principal officials there about the military situation and the progress of their work.

Our Beirut embassy has been used as the meeting place for continuous negotiations between officials of Hizballah and the Amal Movement with Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign minister, and the Iranian and Syrian ambassadors in Beirut as observers. The objective of these negotiations is to end the fighting and return to the status quo in the southern suburbs. As a result of these negotiations, a committee comprised of representatives of the parties involved this afternoon succeeded in going to the (?Harisbrey) area and forcing the armed members of the two sides to withdraw from this area. Previously, those armed followers stationed in the (Ghubeiri) quarter in southern Beirut left their positions through the mediation of this committee.

In light of this tranquillity, this morning a large number of inhabitants of the southern suburbs of Beirut who were unable to leave due to the intensity of the fighting, were able to get out and secure basic provisions. Vehicular traffic has noticeably increased in the streets of the southern suburbs; this is a sign that the situation is returning to normal there. This morning the situation became critical in the Burj al-Barajinah camp and a brief battle took place between the two sides. However, the members of the cease-fire committee immediately intervened and the situation was resolved when the problem was eliminated.

Alongside the political efforts, this morning some food—bread and potatoes—was distributed by our embassy to people who have not been able to leave their houses since last Friday in the southern suburbs. Concerning the victims of the 4-day war in the southern suburbs, it should be noted that according to unnofficial and incomplete figures, more than 100 people have lost their lives and more than 300 persons have been wounded. Many houses have been either burned or badly damaged.

Commentary on Beirut Fighting

NC1105075588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 May 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit research group: "The Bloody Clashes in Southern Beirut"]

[Excerpts] The bloody clashes that broke out on Thursday between two Shi'ite groups in the southern suburb of the Lebanese capital have led to the killing and wounding of a number of fighters on both sides, as well as innocent people. While the number of deaths is mounting sorrowfully, persistent efforts to end these conflicts are also continuing. The two groups that are killing each other in these clashes are the Shi'ite Hizballah and Amal organizations, each accusing the other side. Unfortunately, the victims of these conflicts are youths who can at any moment use the very same weapons they are using against each other to inflict heavy blows on the Zionist regime. [passage omitted]

The current conflicts are an extension of the fighting that went on between the Lebanese Hizballah and the Amal Movement in southern Lebanon a month ago and will most certainly not yield any benefits to the Muslims and anti-Zionist forces.

After the outbreak of these conflicts, the Islamic Republic of Iran sent a peace mission to Lebanon, which exerted extensive efforts to resolve the differences and redirect the struggles of the Muslims against the Zionist regime. This delegation was able to establish contacts there with the conflicting sides and with Lebanon's political-religious dignitaries. The delegation also propounded a 10-point plan as a solution to the fighting.

These efforts are continuing. Nevertheless, the conflicts have once again flared up, and a heavy battle has broken out in the Beirut suburb between Hizballah and Amal. Meanwhile, the Syrian Government has announced that it is striving to solve these conflicts. Also, some of the pro-Damascus Lebanese newspapers have carried editorials calling for the deployment of Syrian forces in the Beirut suburb. This is among Syria's objectives in Lebanon. Until now the Syrian forces have been deployed in two phases, in 1985 and in 1987, in Tripoli and West Beirut.

Inside Beirut, the religious leaders have called on the people and conflicting groups to set aside their differences and instead concentrate their (?efforts) on the main enemy Israel. Also, these groups have been asked to cooperate with the security committee for a cease-fire, and to then resolve their conflicts (?with patience) and in a responsible manner.

West's Efforts To Force Split With Syria Foiled

LD1005144388 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Irano-Syrian Stance Unwavering"]

[Text] Extensive and relentless efforts by the security and propagandistic agencies of the West aimed at bringing about divisiveness between the Islamic Republic of

Iran and Syria were rendered null and void after the Islamic Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up his successful visit to Syria for talks with high-ranking officials in that country.

For quite a while mysterious sources had been pushing forth efforts to incite false centers of crises in certain strategically significant areas such as south Lebanon and Beirut in a bid to effect a rupture in Iran-Syria joint stances.

Addressing the high-ranking Islamic delegation in Damascus, the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad stressed that Syria's standpoints towards the Islamic Revolution in Iran unswerving. While lauding the Islamic Iran's decisive confrontation with the U.S. President al-Asad noted that Iranian people's resistance would make the U.S. fall short of achieving its goals thus marking it as a loser.

Furthermore, repeated suspicious shuttles by the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the region aimed at exercising force to have Damascus agree to Washington's initiatives to bring the Palestinian uprising under control, the commotion raised over the French hostages in the wake of the French presidential elections, inciting clashes between the Amal para-militia and Hizballah in south Lebanon all appear to have been meticulously worked out by international sources to create a chasm in the strategically important revolutionary stances of Iran and Syria.

Meanwhile the dispatch of Ayatollah Jannati to south Lebanon to investigate the seeming discrepancy between the Amal Party and the Hizballah worked to curb the tensions between the two Islamic factions.

In this connection the Western propaganda networks spared no effort in harping on the clashes between the two Islamic groups in Lebanon dubbing this as a clear proof of existing differences between Iran and Damascus. And along this line the highly resounding case of the American Colonel Higgins augmented the rise of these crises.

The Islamic Iran has time and again reiterated that it regards terrorism, kidnapping, hijacking against its political and ideological precepts. Yet, whenever and wherever one such case occurs on the international scene, Washington and London brace all their resources to incite the international public opinion placing the responsibility for the occurrence of the terroristic move on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Along similar lines, the policy of terrorizing governments particularly the way exercised by the intelligence services of the Tel Aviv regime, is a known strategy aimed at bloody liquidations and inciteful political moves in the world.

One such ill-founded charge against the Islamic Republic of Iran just came in the wake of the Kuwaiti hijacked airliner. Right at the time the Islamic Iran was under a blizzard of allegations from various news agencies, the Iraqi pilot of the hijacked plane categorically denied any complicity by the Islamic Iran in the hijacking. This denial, once more threw sufficient light on the baselessness of the charges with which the Islamic Iran has often been victimized.

Mahallati: UN Resolution 'Political Victory'

LD1005214088 Tehran IRNA in English 2108 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—Iran's envoy to the U.N. Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati Tuesday enumerated the pros and cons of Resolution 612 passed by the U.S. Security Council Monday in condemnation of the use of chemical weapons in the Iraq-Iran war.

Mahallati said the resolution, for some reasons, is considered a great political victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also noted that it is the first time the U.N. has passed an indispensable resolution banning the use of chemical arms.

The official, here on a homecoming visit, told IRNA that the resolution will oblige the U.N. Security Council to resort to deterrent, practical measures to prevent the Halabjah catastrophe from being repeated.

Iraq dropped chemical bombs on Halabjah, a Kurdish town in northeastern Iraq in March after it was taken over by Iran's Islamic combatants. Over 5,000 people lost their lives and another 7,000 were maimed in the appalling genocide.

Among the weak points of the resolution, the Iranian U.N. envoy said, was its failure to name or condemn Iraq for the Halabjah genocide or determine punishment for it and for ignoring its (Iraq's) past crimes.

He said the Resolution 612 was put forth because of the insistence of some moderate member states of the Security Council, adding that it was propounded by West Germany and signed by Japan and Italy.

Mahallati said a positive point in the resolution was that for the first time, the Security Council had passed a deterrent resolution on the use of chemical weapons. Another positive point, he believed, was that the council had taken the issue of chemical warfare independently.

He said the resolution has called for discontinuation of chemical weapons use and urged other states to establish control of the export of chemical substances serving for the production of chemical weapons, to both Iran and Iraq. Furthermore, the Security Council is obliged to review the implementation of the resolution. These, in Mahallati's opinion, are other positive points he could find in Resolution No 612.

If the Security Council fails to take steps to stop deployment of chemical weapons, especially after issuing the Resolution 612, it would totally destroy what is left from its prestige, particularly that Iraq has openly admitted the use of these internationally-banned weapons, he said.

The Iranian envoy criticized the U.N. secretary general for dispatching an incomplete team to investigate Iraq's Halabjah genocide and said the dispatch had taken place following a request by Iran but after "an unjustified delay" by the United Nations. He also regretted that the U.N. team dispatched to Iran did not include military and chemical experts.

Mahallati however, was pleased that the findings of the U.N. team revealed that most of the Halabjah victims were civilians and that 50 percent of them were women. The report also includes evidences and documents attesting to the use of chemical weapons in Halabjah, he said, adding that "what remains is a serious political move by the United Nations."

The disclosure of the draft resolution made Iraq so embarrassed that it had to mention names of certain Security Council members as the countries supplying Baghdad with chemical weapons, Mahallati said, adding that Iraq had thus made an explicit confession that it was using these weapons. The U.S. also supported Baghdad, he said.

He reiterated Iran's stance that Iraq must be identified as the aggressor party in the war, adding that no other solution would be acceptable to Iran. This pivotal point, he said, must be taken into consideration in the secretary general's future efforts to solve the conflict.

Commentary on 'Pointless' UN Resolution

LD1005143088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 10 May 88

[Station commentary: "The Security Council, Encourager of the Iraqi Regime for More Extensive Deployment of Chemical Weapons"]

[Text] The Security Council under pressure from international public opinion has finally ended its deathly silence on the deployment of inhumane chemical weapons. Just as with its previous positions on the imposed war, the council limited itself to releasing an equivocal and pointless resolution condemning the continued deployment of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war.

This issue, which in fact is interpreted as some sort of attempt by the UN Security Council to shirk its responsibility, once again demonstrates that this Council is still under the superpowers' illegitimate influence and that all its moves are aimed at serving their interests—that is, those powers which play a vital role in arming the war-mongering regime of Iraq against Islamic Iran and which exploit the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, in order to provide continued support to the Iraqi regime.

The Security Council's ineffective position, adopted more than 50 days after the chemical bombing of Halabjah by the criminal Iraqi regime, shows that so far the Security Council has failed to act in accordance with the UN Charter, based on the 1925 Geneva Protocol, to halt Iraq's proliferation and deployment of chemical weapons. The Security Council's long silence in the face of this horrific crime, which was condemned by many countries and personalities including the UN secretary general, has encouraged this regime to repeat its crime and to deploy chemical weapons in residential areas in the southern part of the Islamic Republic.

In view of the Security Council's recent position, adopted despite a global reaction to the deployment of chemical weapons by the war-mongering regime of Iraq, it seems that henceforth use of chemical weapons will become a normal option and will be added to the defense capabilities of many countries. Whereas some countries of the world and even some members of the Security Council on various occasions have identified the Iraqi regime as the aggressor and the initiator of the war against Iran, the Security Council has refrained from declaring the Iraqi regime the aggressor.

The Security Council's current resolution that in general terms condemns the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war has justified Iraq's action in its inhumane crime at Halabjah, unprecedented since World War I, and has tried to follow the policies of the United States and other Western supporters of Saddam by placing both countries in the same category. The objective of this sinister plot of Western imperialism, led by the United States, is to cover up the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons in order to realize the plan to impose an arms embargo against Iran. This is taking place at a time when the Iraqi regime in the war against Iran is constantly armed and equipped by these countries and Arab reactionary regimes.

At present the adoption of the Security Council's ineffective resolution on chemical weapons deployment, which took place as a result of measures by some Security Council members in support of the Iraqi regime, has undermined [tahtoshshoe'] the secretary general's just position condemning this regime and the use of chemical weapons and has reached a poinat where the major powers have rendered the United Nations impotent.

The recent action of the Security Council, which tried to cover up this unprecedented crime by adopting an unjust and equivocal positon, has not only undermined the United Nations; it has also proved that this organization, which should be in charge of safeguarding peace and

international security and ensuring the implementation of international rules and regulations, continues to support the aggressive regime of Iraq.

The biased and critical measures of the United Nations with regard to the Iran-Iraq war, which are always seen as encouraging the Iraqi regime to continue its atrocities with the cooperation of the United States and Arab reactionary regimes, will further acquaint the international community with the bitter taste of the hegemonist powers' desire to serve their own interests.

In any case, U.S. support for Saddam in the Persian Gulf and the Eastern superpower's constant supply of arms and missiles to the Baghdad regime will undoubtedly encourage this warmongering regime to continue its crimes against the people of Iran and Iraq. However, the criminal actions of this regime will be aimed not only against the Islamic Iran; the expansion of these crimes will engulf other countries of the region and the world with horrific consequences.

UN Decision on Toxic Gas Supports Iraq Position

LD1005214188 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 10 May 88

["S.C. Gives the Green Light to Iraq for Further Crimes"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—The United Nations Security Council released a resolution Monday denouncing the deployment of chemical weapons in the Iraq-Iran war without identifying Iraq as the party using them, thus proving its partiality in international disputes and its being influenced by dominant big powers.

The resolution, condemning the use of toxic gases in the war and calling for a ban on their export to Iraq and Iran, before being regarded as a positive measure on behalf of the Security Council indicates its open support for the Iraqi regime in the war.

The Security Council issued its resolution after refusing to examine previous reports filed by UN probe teams and medical groups from various European countries confirming that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has deployed chemical weapons against Iranians and its own civilians.

The Security Council this time turned a deaf ear to the outcry of thousands of innocent women, men and children who fell victims to Iraq's atrocities in Halabjah, some of whom were even despatched to Europe and America by Iran for further medical treatment. It also ignored the official condemnation of the Baghdad regime by the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, for its chemical warfare.

It has been proved that the deadly silence of international forums towards the war crimes committed by Saddam (Husayn) would only encourage the Baghdad regime to carry on its disgraceful acts. The latest Security Council resolution is in fact a carte blanche to the aggressor giving him assurance that the massacre of 5,000 women and children in their houses would not prompt the council to react firmly, but would instead give the criminal an open hand to officially acknowledge its crimes and even take pride in it.

The explicit remarks of foreign minister of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, Tariq 'Aziz, on Iraq's use of chemical substances in the war shortly before the Security Council's resolution, attests to this reality.

The new resolution of the Security Council also bears a new point: It treats Iraq and Iran equally regarding the use of chemicals. Consequently, the council becomes the third party, after Iraq and the U.S., to allege that Iran has also deployed chemical weapons, a claim even refuted by Western mass media opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The U.S. Ambassador to the UN Vernon Walters, by saying that "we have evidences that Iran and Iraq have both used chemicals" has unveiled Washington's role in the new Security Council resolution.

The Security Council's new resolution on the Iraqi-imposed war, like its former ones, is influenced by world arrogance and the Islamic Republic believes that the council's resolutions are useless in preventing the Baghdad regime from committing more crimes. What will defeat the enemy is reliance on the Almighty Allah and a continuous presence in the battlefields.

Islamic Body Issues Statement on Jerusalem Day

LD1005222088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula has issued a statement with regard to Jerusalem Day in which the need for all-round measures to destroy the Zionist regime is emphasized. The statement calls on the world's Muslims to participate in the ceremonies marking Jerusalem Day and to declare their support for the Palestinian Islamic uprising.

The statement also refers to the responsibility of the Muslim nations of the world to confront the plots hatched by the United States and its mercenaries in the region—particularly the Al Sa'ud regime—and praises the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran for being in the vanguard of the liberation of noble Jerusalem. The Islamic Revolution Organization also strongly condemns the conspiracies of Arab regimes aimed at crushing the Islamic revolution of Palestine.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,198

LD1005170488 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in ten separate sorties heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Sharhani, southern fronts, Tuesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Announcing the above here today, the 3198th Joint Staff Communique reported that all fighters returned safely to bases after their missions which took place at 05:50, 05:55, 06:30, 06:35, 07:10, 07:15, 09:30, 09:35, 10:30 and 10:35 hours local time (02:20, 02:25, 03:00, 03:05, 03:40, 03:45, 06:00, 06:05, 07:00 and 07:05 GMT).

The Islamic Republic Air Force also carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Monday, ignoring two warnings from foreign naval fleets, as well as reconnoitering 27 vessels.

In the Strait of Hormuz Monday, Iranian naval units, in addition to carrying out their routine patrol missions aimed at preventing any military equipment from reaching Iraq, closely monitored movement of two foreign gunboats, a warship and two vessels.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Monday, raging somewhat more heavily in Helaleh and Hawr al-Hawizah as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment.

In the western fronts, at least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, an enemy observation post destroyed while a motor pool and a command outpost damaged by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

In the northwestern fronts, Iraqi troops suffered several casualties and some of their bunkers and gun emplacements were destroyed in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants yesterday.

In the southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire, in addition to killing and wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers Monday, destroyed several enemy bunkers and gun emplacements, a munitions dump and some vehicles including two engineering ones.

Iranian artillery fire checked movement of Iraqi motorized columns in Helaleh, Chuman Mostafa and Faqqeh Monday, destroying several vehicles and killing or wounding their crew members.

Heavy fire of Iranian combatants silenced fire of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and western sectors, yesterday, heavily damaging some enemy tanks.

On Monday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of warfronts, Monday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying seven bunkers and a vehicle of theirs, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Planes Overfly Gach Saran

LD1005174188 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Yasuj, Bovir Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh Prov., May 10, IRNA—A number of Iraqi warplanes flying at high altitude violated the airspace of Gach Saran city in this southern province at 13:40 hours local time (10:10 GMT) Tuesday.

The enemy planes broke the sound barrier when forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Kurds Capture Iraqi Bases

LD1005181988 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 10, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in a successful assault a few days ago seized 15 bases and the headquarters of Battalion 13 of the Iraqi Army in "Dimkai" in Zakhu region.

At least 40 Iraqi soldiers were killed and 114 others captured by the KDP peshmergas in the operations. The attacking Kurdish forces also destroyed "Zireh Qadim" and "Zireh Jadid" [names as received] supply bridges.

In two separate operations this week, the KDP forces ambushed iraqi troops in Dahuk and Kani Masi regions in the northern province of Dahuk, killing and wounding 13 enemy soldiers, among them a battalion commander and some NCOS.

Bodies of Lieutenant Majid Rahim Hamadi, commander of Al-Quds Battalion, affiliated to a commando brigade of the 33th Division and some NCOS were seen among the slain.

Iraqi Jets Overfly Dezful

LD1105114088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 May

[Text] Aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi regime at 1147 today violated our airspace over Dezful. Meeting the antiaircraft fire of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they broke the sound barrier while fleeing at a high altitude.

UK Paper Interviews Ex-President Bani-Sadr

PM1005132188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 4 May 88 p 11

[Telephone interview with former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Paris by Nura Fakhuri; date not given]

[Text] [Fakhuri] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia broke off relations with Iran last week. What is your view of this move?

[Bani-Sadr] It is easy for the Khomeyni regime to send Iranians to stage riots and die in holy Mecca because that regime does not value human life. As for the Saudi Kingdom, it is difficult for it to tolerate a repetition of the tragedy which occurred during last year's pilgrimage season. With Iran insisting on its position, there was no choice other than the severance of relations. Furthermore, after the loss of Al-Faw, the world is now certain that Iran cannot win the war militarily, and therefore this is the right time to isolate and put pressure on Iran. The break in diplomatic relations is part of the isolation process.

[Fakhuri] What do you think of the recent parliamentary elections in Iran? Were they lawful?

[Bani-Sadr] I had addressed a message to the Iranian people asking them to boycott the elections, refrain from voting, stay at home, and consider that day a day of general mourning. Press reports confirm that the Iranian people did indeed respond to that call. According to Western reporters who were in Iran at the time, the streets and the polling centers were empty. The Iranian people stayed at home.

[Fakhuri] But Iranian television showed some scenes....

[Bani-Sadr] Iranian television was lying. What is important is that the Western press has confirmed that the elections were rigged and that the voting centers were empty. These were not free elections. Not all parties were allowed to participate. The Iranian people's passive attitude and disobedience were effective and the Khomeyni regime can no longer tell the world that the Iranian people approve of that regime's dicatorship. As for the legitimacy of the elections, well, the regime itself is illegitimate and, therefore, anything it does or touches is also illegitimate.

[Fakhuri] Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, how do you view the strategic significance of Iraq's recapture of Al-Faw? After this failure, is the Iranian Army capable of continuing the war?

[Bani-Sadr] In my opinion, the battle was not only military; it was also political. At any rate, we have been saying since last September that Iraq could recapture Al-Faw whenever it wanted. Al-Faw's return to Iraq means that Iran no longer has any chance of winning the war militarily, and this means that Iran is politically isolated.

[Fakhuri] According to some press reports, a state of disobedience prevails in some Iranian towns and villages where people are refusing to volunteer for the battlefronts. How true are these reports?

[Bani-Sadr] The Iranian people are tired of this war and so, in fact, are the Iraqi people. The people hate the war and the regime which stokes the flames. Reporters returning from Iran recently confirm that there is general anger in various Iranian areas and villages but this anger still has not been transformed into live political demonstrations in the streets. However, this might happen and I hope it will because such demonstrations would stop the war of the cities—which has exhausted the people—and might bring an end to the entire war.

[Fakhuri] Accusing fingers are being pointed at the Iranian Government claiming it was involved in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane "Al-Jabiriyah." What is your information on this matter?

[Bani-Sadr] I do not believe that the Iranian Government was involved in that air piracy but a certain group within the Iranian Government was definitely linked to the hijacking. It is a group opposed to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who condemned the "Al-Jabiriyah" hijacking and who has been criticized by the Iranian press for doing that.

[Fakhuri] What group is that?

[Bani-Sadr] There are many conflicting groups in Iran.

[Fakhuri] It has been claimed that the Montazeri-Mehdi Hashemi group was responsible for that piracy.

[Bani-Sadr] I cannot be specific, but that group is certainly close to the terrorists and against the Hashemi-Rafsanjani group.

[Fakhuri] It has recently been reported that a deal has been struck between France and those holding the French hostages in Lebanon, and that part of the deal provides for possible release of the hostages in return for your deportation and the deportation of Ayatollah Rohani from Paris. Has the French Government submitted such a request to you?

[Bani-Sadr] These are false reports fabricated by Rohani himself as a way of hinting to the French Government that it should deport me from France. Anyway, there has been no such request from the French Government.

[Fakhuri] How do you view the recent U.S. strike against a number of Iranian positions and installations?

[Bani-Sadr] I am against U.S. interference in the Gulf. I believe it delays any peaceful settlement between the states of the region. I also believe that the inhumane Khomeyni regime is responsible for this interference.

Khomeyni Reportedly 'Upset' Over Al-Faw Loss

NC1105134188 (Clandestine) Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] As we have reported on numerous earlier occasions, Ruhollah Khomeyni is extremely upset over the loss of the Al-Faw Peninsula to the Iraqi Armed Forces and has not received anyone since that day. Our cofighters in Tehran have reported that following the

defeat at Al-Faw, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani went to see Ruhollah Khomeyni, but the latter did not even ask him to be seated, haughtily saying: Go and retake Al-Faw. Then come to see me!

Another report states that Brigadier General Rahimi, former commander of the Gendarmerie, sent an open letter to Ruhollah Khomeyni (?demanding) that all commanders responsible for the fall of the Al-Faw Peninsula be dismissed and the direction of the war be entrusted to competent and able Armed Forces commanders.

Another report from Tehran states: On the regime's orders an extensive purge has taken place in the IRGC since the fall of Al-Faw, and the regime is trying to depict the IRGC as responsible for the defeat.

All are aware that the real reason behind the debacle is the erroneous policy of the Islamic regime which insisted that the IRGC fast and wake up to pray instead of resting at night and receiving military instruction. They did not have an experienced and aware command and lacked enough military equipment.

Our co-fighters report that inadequate food rations, insufficient arms and equipment, as well as lack of (?proper) defense of the IRGC stationed in Al-Faw, were among the reasons for the defeat. Therefore, the IRGC are not (?at fault), they said.

Pakistan

Junejo Orders Security Forces To End Violence

BK1005165688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has directed all federal and provincial agencies to bring an end to the current wave of violence in Karachi and deal firmly with elements creating the disturbances.

He announced that the government is firmly determined to restore law and order and protect the life and property of every citizen. The prime minister especially directed the law enforcing agencies to obliterate those elements who are secretly behind these disturbances.

He asked the Sind chief minister to consult with all officials of the city and use all federal and provincial resources to bring the situation under control, as well as keep him apprised of the steps taken by the provincial administration in this connection.

The prime minister expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt sympathy to those people affected by the recent violence and directed the authorities to provide enough relief to the affected persons and families.

He appealed to all sections of society to wisely solve this issue, because this issue is not just of a local nature, but is affecting the entire country. This is a challenge to our spirit of nationhood and should be faced with the same spirit.

The federal minister and secretary general of the Pakistan Muslim League, Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan, emphasized that all branches and personnel of the party in Karachi should set up peace committees to help maintain peace and harmony in the city.

In a statement issued today, he directed Pakistan Muslim League workers to also set up relief committees to help affected people in Karachi disturbances and ensure that no loss of life occurs due to lack of food, medical treatment, or care.

He expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief and said Pakistan's enemies both inside and outside the country spare no opportunity to harm Pakistan. Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan said it is the duty of the All Pakistan Muslim League workers to foil the plots of foreign interventionists who are behind the spilling of Muslim blood in this holy month of Ramadan. He appealed to citizens to be aware of the enemies of Pakistan and not heed rumors.

The situation in all curfew-bound areas of Karachi was peaceful today and there is no report of any untoward incident from any of these areas. The curfew restrictions were relaxed for 6 hours this evening in the Orangi police station area of Karachi West and for 6 hours this morning as well.

In Karachi East, curfew restrictions were relaxed for 2 hours this evening in Thana Brigade, Shah Faysal colony, Landhi, Malir extension, some areas of Jamsher quarters, and New Town police station areas.

Sri Lanka

Agreement With 'Proscribed' Party Detailed

BK1005134088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1220 GMT 10 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (LANKA PUWATH)—Peace returned to southern Sri Lanka at 0615 hours local time this morning with the signing of the agreement between the Sri Lankan Government and the proscribed political party, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) which was engaged in a campaign of terrorism in southern Sri Lanka.

At a news conference held by National Security and Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali at the Defence Ministry this morning, Mr Athulathmudali broke the glad news that with immediate effect the JVP had pledged to lay down its arms, stop its campaign of

violence and return nearly 700 weapons it had taken from the Sri Lankan security forces and civilians by May 29th, 1988, and enter the democratic process with immediate effect.

The government for its part removed the proscription of the JVP and its related trade unions and students organisations.

The government has also given the list of 96 rifles with serial numbers taken from Sri Lankan security forces and 600 shot guns also with their serial numbers which were taken from civilians.

Mr. Athulathmudali announced that the agreement had been signed this morning by him on behalf of the government, JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera, his deputy Upatissa Gamanayake, and K.C. Senanayake, representative of the JVP who represented the proscribed political party at the negotiations with Rev. Father Tissa Balasuriya, [word indistinct] of the centre for religions who initiated the negotiations between the Sri Lankan Government and JVP.

Wijeweera and Gamanayake had signed the document earlier, but were not present at the signing at 0615 hours local time. Their signatures were being checked with the government examiner of questioned documents and subject to his certifying their signatures.

The minister before reading out the document (agreement) said: "Before I issue it, I have to say that there are some signatories to the document and I haven't still had the final report of the examiner of questioned documents." "That's coming. I don't think that is going to be such a big problem. So, his excellency the president has directed me to go ahead with the agreement. So, subject to that very small caveat, I will read out the document I have."

Agreement between the government and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna:

1. The government removes the proscription of the JVP and of its related trade unions and students organisations listed in the schedule below and stops its cordon and search operations and the JVP will stop all acts of violence and enter the mainstream of the democratic political process with immediate effect.

2. The JVP can move about without firearms. Arms can be carried only for the purpose of handing them over to the predetermined temples as under Articles 5 and 6 below.

3. The persons presently detained as JVP members are to continue in detention under the emergency regulations. They are to be released subject to Article 7 when the JVP has surrendered arms as provided below.

4. If the arms are not surrendered by 29th May, 1988, government may reintroduce the proscription of the JVP.

5. Handing over of arms—minimum quantity requirement by the government is as follows:

a. Arms taken from the security forces [words indistinct].

b. Handing over of arms: This to be such that the identity of those who haned over the weapons is not known by the government.

c. Weapons to be handed over to the temples decided on by the JVP: The chief incumbent of the temple will give the JVP a receipt acknowledging the acceptance of the weapons and to inform the minister of national security or his nominee immediately.

The chief incumbent of the temples is to then hand over the weapons and obtain the receipt from the assigned goverament officer to whom he hands over these weapons.

The arms will be deemed to be handed over to the state only upon the issue of a receipt by the assigned government officer that he has received the same.

7. [Numbering as received] Release of prisoners:

a. On the completion of the surrender of arms by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna as required by Articles 5 and 6 [as received], all those detained as JVP members will be released, for example, anybody arrested for being merely a member of the JVP or pasting posters is to be released immediately.

Investigation and trial:

8. The cases of those who have been investigated under the PTA [Prevention of Terrorism Act] robbery will be eligible will be continued under the PTA, if it is not thought feasible to convert them to investigation under the ordinary law. [sentence as received]

The cases which have so far not been investigated under the PTA will be under the ordinary law.

9. Restoration of JVP property: Government will restore the 48 buses and 2 cars belonging to the JVP or registered under the names of the JVP members when the arms are surrendered, as under Articles 5 and 6 [as received] above.

The JVP will give a list of these vehicles.

The Kohilawatte press will be restored to the JVP on the surrender of arms by them.

Committee: Minister of National Security and Trade Lalith Athulathmudali, Mr K.K. Senanayake and Father Tissa Balasuriya who are both here, continue as a committee for dealing with any further issues concerning this agreement.

Mr. [name indistinct]: "I signed this agreement on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka at 0615 hours local time this morning.

"For the JVP, we had the signatures, also obtained in the early hours of this morning, of Mr Rohana Wijeweera and Mr Upatissa Gamanayake, and Mr K.C. Senanayake who signed in my presence.

"Witness to the signatures of Mr Senanayake and myself, Father Tissa Balasuriya also signed at 0630 hours local time this morning."

The minister of national security and trade said the examiner of question documents (EQD) report reference only refers to the signatures of Messrs Wijeweera and Gamanayake and Mr Senanayake, who is here has undertaken to produce also a voice cast by Mr Wijeweera later this evening. [sentence as received]

Mr. Athulathmudali said this is the result of negotations which have been going on from about the 18th of April.

Father Tissa Balasuriya, made the discussion possible, said the minister.

Doubts Raised About Authenticity of JVP Truce

BK1105105388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1031 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 11 (AFP)—Forensic experts were checking signatures Wednesday on a Sri Lankan Government peace pact with a Sinhalese extremist group amid press reports that the agreement was a hoax.

The government Tuesday lifted a five-year ban on the Jantha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front) after it reportedly agreed to a ceasefire and to surrender arms by May 29.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told reporters that a Roman Catholic priest, Father Tissa Balasuriya, had served as a mediator in the month-long secret negotiations with the JVP.

Mr. Athulathmudali said a JVP representative, Krishna Chandra Senanayake, had witnessed the signature of JVP leader Rohana Wijeweera to the agreement, which calls for a JVP surrender of arms and an immediate ceasefire.

The document is still being examined by forensic experts, officials said Wednesday.

Anonymous callers claiming to be from the JVP told local newspaper editors late Tuesday that the agreement was a government-engineered hoax and the group had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Senanayake denied the charge in a telephone call to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Wednesday and said he will address a press conference later in the day to explain the JVP position.

A military spokesman here said there was no violence reported from the south of the island, a JVP stronghold, indicating the truce was genuine and the ceasefire was holding. "The situation is a bit murky. But the troops have been asked to call off any operations against the JVP in keeping with the agreement," the spokesman said.

Fr. Balasuriya said in a statement issued here that he could not independently confirm if the JVP leader had actually signed the agreement. "I can only attest to the signatures of Mr. Athulathmudali and Mr. Senanayake who came to me with a letter authorising him to represent the JVP. This letter is supposed to have been issued by the JVP's deputy leader," Fr. Balasuriya said.

The government had said it would reimpose the ban if the JVP did not surrender a minimum of 96 automatic rifles and some 600 shotguns stolen from the military and civilians in the past 10 months.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike said he doubted whether the JVP, which has been violently opposed to the government, would come to an agreement with the ruling United National Party (UNP). [passage omitted]